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A TOUCH OF EVIL

Sam and Dean Winchester have met their fair share of strong women over the course of their travels, but demonic beauty Ruby takes the cake. Just whose side is she on? Actress Katie Cassidy sheds some light on her mysterious other half.

Words: Nicholas Knight

"THE WRITERS DON'T TELL US WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE. THEY DON'T EVEN TELL JARED OR JENSEN."

RUBY IN THE ROUGH

Ruby's story so far...

We first see Ruby in the season three opener *The Magnificent Seven* when she rescues Sam from Gluttony and Greed. "Who. The. Hell. Are. You?" he demands. Good question. The mysterious beauty's next appearance comes in the second episode of season three, *The Kids Are Alright*. She slides into a booth opposite Sam and then proceeds to eat all his fries. The younger Winchester wants to know why she's following him, but Ruby remains frustratingly tight-lipped, saying only that Sam should look up his mother's old friends. Later in the same episode, Ruby reveals herself to be a demon in disguise, but one that wants to *help* Sam rather than hurt him. Sam, however, is not convinced and goes to vanquish her, only for Ruby to play her trump card. She can help Dean...

In *Sin City*, Ruby allows Bobby to test the Colt on her, knowing full well that it can't harm her – at least not the way he's fixed it. "You want me to help you with that gun, or not?" she smiles, leaving her objectives more open to interpretation than ever before.

the sense you have with Sharon's character is that she's always in control. She always has the power, and there's this mystery about her."

While Ruby may indeed have the sexual energy to manipulate men, it's her ability to best them in a brawl that sets her apart from many other femme fatales.

"As a demon hunter, I've got to know how to kick some ass!" Cassidy exclaims. She means that quite literally; Cassidy has become a dedicated kickboxing student. "We're shooting in Vancouver, and as soon as I got there they put me with a personal trainer for six days a week. It's been crazy. I used to be a competitive gymnast and I'm trying to build back those muscles and look pretty tough. By the later episodes you'll see me get some bulk."

With Cassidy's natural athleticism and her newfound kickboxing skills, the Winchester boys had better watch out... "I think Ruby's a tough chick," Cassidy says. "I think these boys would be surprised."

Cassidy's rough-and-tumble attitude about her character should come as a relief to all those fans who worried that the introduction of Ruby, and the other new regular female character, Bela, would lead to serious romances and a foursome crowding into the Impala every week. Cassidy elaborates on the possibility of romance between Ruby and one of the brothers. "I don't know – it's not in the cards... yet. She does use flirting to get them to do what she wants, but it hasn't been more than just conversation. I really don't want to upset any of the *Supernatural* fans, but I don't really have any control over that. I just hope people respond well to what I'm doing, and know that Lauren Cohan [Bela] and I are just working hard and doing what we're told."

Regardless of whether or not romantic storylines show up, Cassidy hopes people are excited about the direction the show takes with Ruby and Bela, and that the fans are open to anything. "I hope everyone will be just as excited as Lauren and I are, and be supportive. I think it's going to be really, really fun and it'll bring a good twist into it."

While she hopes for support from the fans, Cassidy has already found support on set. "It's awesome," she gushes. "I couldn't be happier. It's hard coming onto a show in the third season since everybody's sort of already a family – but they really welcome you into their family. They make sure you're included and they make you feel like you've been there the whole time."

Jensen Ackles and Jared Padalecki, in particular, have made her feel at home.

"They're really, really sweet guys. Everyone you talk to will tell you the same thing, but it's true. Jared is a big goofball, and he and I have this banter back and forth, which is funny. Jensen, I actually don't see as much, but I have worked with him and he's great. They both know what they're doing, and they have it down to a science. They're really hardworking, nice boys."

And sometimes they're practical jokers, too, as Cassidy can attest. "I had this scene with ketchup where I squeeze it really, really, really hard and I put a bunch of it on my plate. Well, I did that on the third take and it was my third day on set and I was still pretty new... and somebody had unscrewed the ketchup bottle a little bit and left it so that when I squeezed the ketchup out, the ketchup went shooting all over myself and all over my plate. I was so embarrassed, but I was trying to basically just go with it. But then Jared was like, 'Wow that's a lot of ketchup.' And then everyone sang 'Happy Birthday' to me, because if somebody breaks something or messes something up or gets a prank pulled on them, they all sing 'Happy Birthday' to you. I still don't really know if Jared did this or not, I don't even know if somebody planned it. But Jared said, 'Uh-oh, somebody's out to get you...'"

PACKING A PUNCH

While the good humor can be found both onscreen and off, the most exciting moments in *Supernatural* come from the thrills and chills. Cassidy is a fan of the horror genre, but, for her character at least, *Supernatural* has been "more like an action thriller, which is really cool. The character's completely different than anything I've ever played."

And she hopes that appeals to the female viewers. "I just think it's good for the females out there to see another female literally physically kicking people's asses, and being able to take care of herself. For me, when I see that type of character in a movie or on television, I'm just like, 'That chick is awesome!' I don't want to inspire women to start fighting or anything, I just want to portray a strong independent woman. I hope they like to watch girls kick some boys' asses... because I think there'll be a lot of that going on!"

Of course, Cassidy hopes to appeal to male fans, too. Not that there's any real doubt about that. After all, if Ruby can use her sexual energy to manipulate two hardcore demon hunters, then male TV viewers should be putty in her hands. Not that Cassidy would put it quite that way. She has a great respect for the fans and wants to keep them happy.

"I just hope everybody's open-minded and excited and really looking forward to this season because I think Lauren and I are bringing a new dynamic to the show, and I think it'll be really fun."

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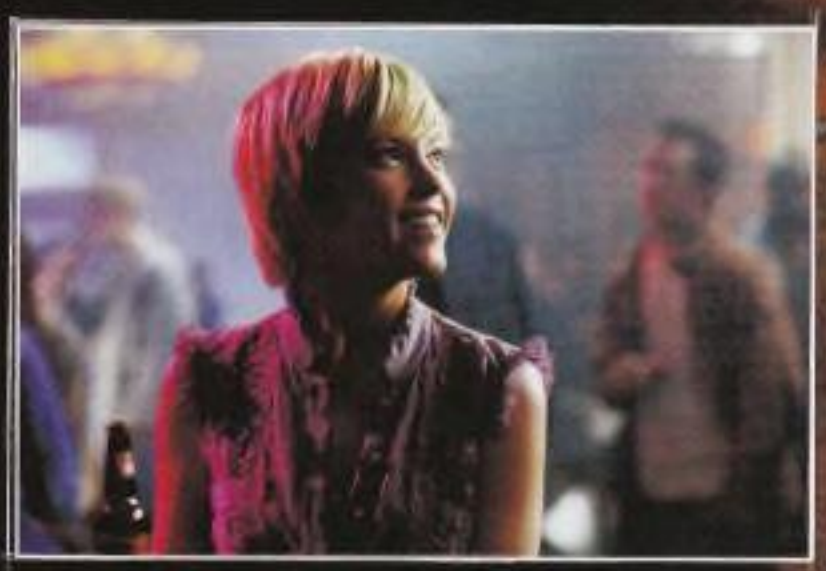
MASTERS of the Universe

Words: Nicholas Knight

The possessed Meg Masters proved to be a worthy adversary for the Winchesters, and a fan favorite to boot, back in season one. After Meg's scary return as one of the ghostly Witnesses in season four, actress Nicki Aycox tells *The Official Supernatural Magazine* about Meg's anger, being shot at, and how she felt seeing Jared Padalecki playing the Meg demon...



"I swear, after everything I heard about you Winchesters, I've got to tell you, I'm a little underwhelmed. First, Johnny tries to pawn off a fake gun, and then he leaves the real gun with you two chuckleheads. Lackluster, man. I mean, did you really think I wouldn't find you?"

That's Nicki Aycox's favorite Meg Masters quote from *Supernatural*, especially the "lackluster" part. So it's a good thing her performance as Mrs. B. on the TV series *Over There* was far from lackluster. When Kim Manners directed an episode that focused on her character, it was the relationship they built on *that* set that led the future *Supernatural* executive producer and director to personally select Aycox for the role of the demon-possessed Meg Masters.

"I really enjoyed working with Kim, because he's a very straightforward, honest man and an easy person to understand," Aycox reveals. "He could make himself very clear, tell you exactly what he wanted, how he wanted it to look, and I really admired that, so we became friends who really like to work together in an artistic way. He's been a mentor [in that regard] ever since."

Aycox's character, Meg, has been a fan favorite ever since she appeared in the season one episode *Scarecrow*. But even she didn't know what she was in for back then. "I knew that I was going to be [on] for more than one episode, but we really just felt our way through it... We just knew it was gonna go until we felt the storyline had come to an end." Meg Masters' appearance in the season four episode *Are You There God? It's Me... Dean Winchester* proves

there's never a true end to a character on *Supernatural*. So far, Aycox has played a human, a demon, and a ghost – could zombie Meg be next?

"I don't know," Aycox muses with a chuckle. "The next phase could be anything!" Likewise, she didn't know exactly where she was going with Meg in the beginning. "It was very trial and error," she admits. "I took it one episode at a time. For that first episode [season one's *Scarecrow*], I just came up with an idea of how to control the evil side and keep it hidden so the audience didn't see it right away, since, obviously, you don't know that she's going to be a demon in the beginning. My focus at that point was [portraying her] as if she's a truly innocent girl who's lost and on her way to somewhere else, so that when, in the end, you see me slashing the [man's] throat, it really was a surprise!

"Then, as we got into it further and I'd been on set with the guys more, I saw how playful they are and how they're up for anything. They have really great senses of humor, so that gave me the confidence to bring [Meg's] sexuality into it with them. I started to say, 'You know what? It would be nice to play the sexuality with them against each other..."

With Aycox mentioning how playful Jensen Ackles and Jared Padalecki can be, the inevitable question of pranks arises. "Everyone asks me that question!" she exclaims. "I always say, 'Nope, they can't play a prank on me because I'm too quick for them.' I said that at the last EyeCon convention, so [the fans asked], 'Well, have you ever played a prank on them?' And I said, 'No, it wouldn't be a fair fight.' So that's my story and I'm sticking with it."

The behind-camera playfulness bled onto the screen in the form of Meg's wicked wit. "I loved that she was playful," says Aycox. "But there was a sense of evil in her. That was great, but I wanted there to be layers – I wanted the playful side to come out, and I wanted the sexuality to come out, but I wanted that to be tempered with an evil side underneath, so you couldn't quite ever say, 'Oh, Meg is just evil.' Because [toward] the end of the exorcism you find out that she was just a young girl who was trapped in this body and didn't want to be where she was. I wanted to make sure I gave her human qualities somewhere inside the demon."

Perhaps for that reason, Aycox's favorite scene is the exorcism scene, where she gets to run the gamut of playful, sexual, evil, and innocent victim. Yet, acting out a scene like that is emotionally

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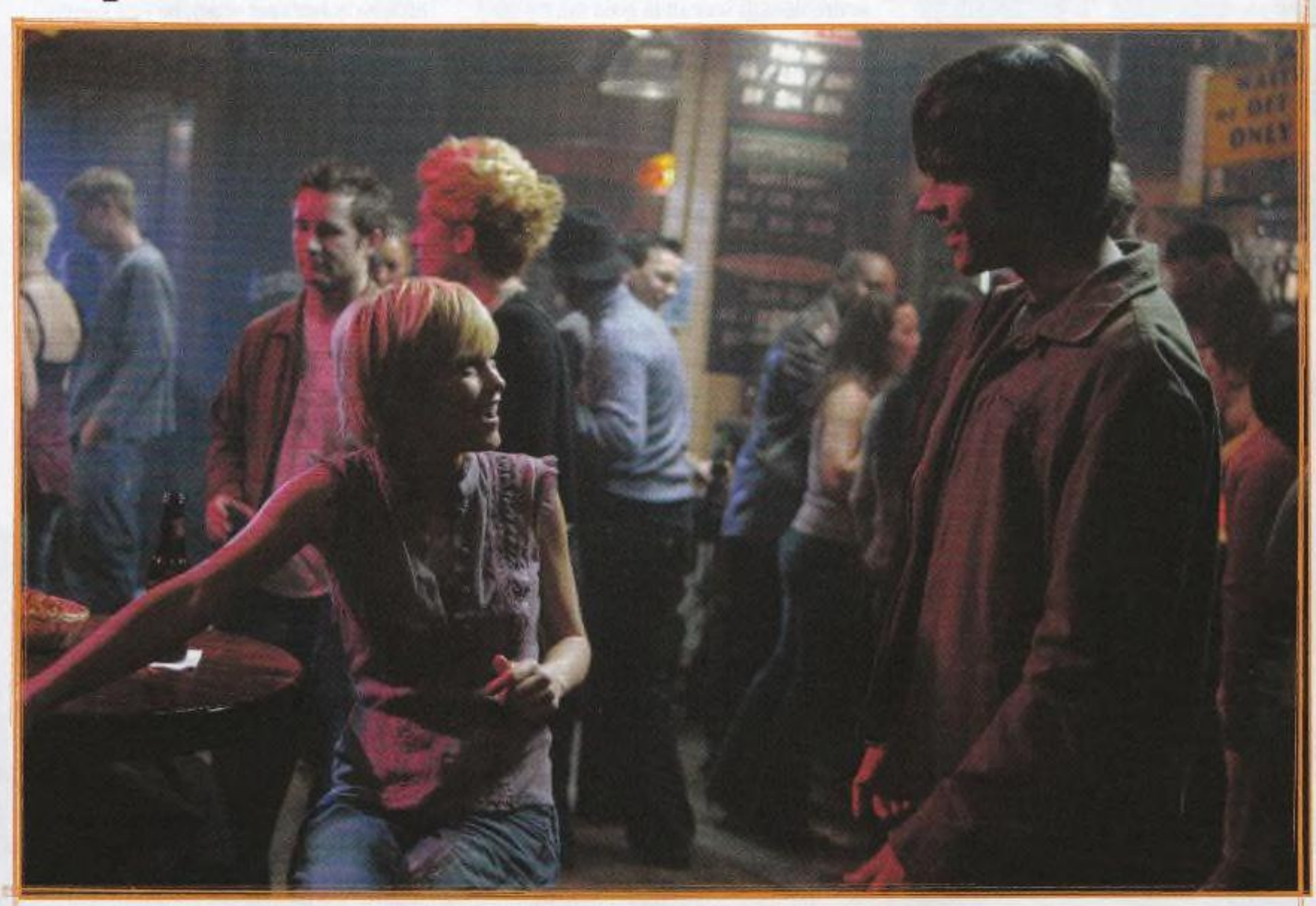
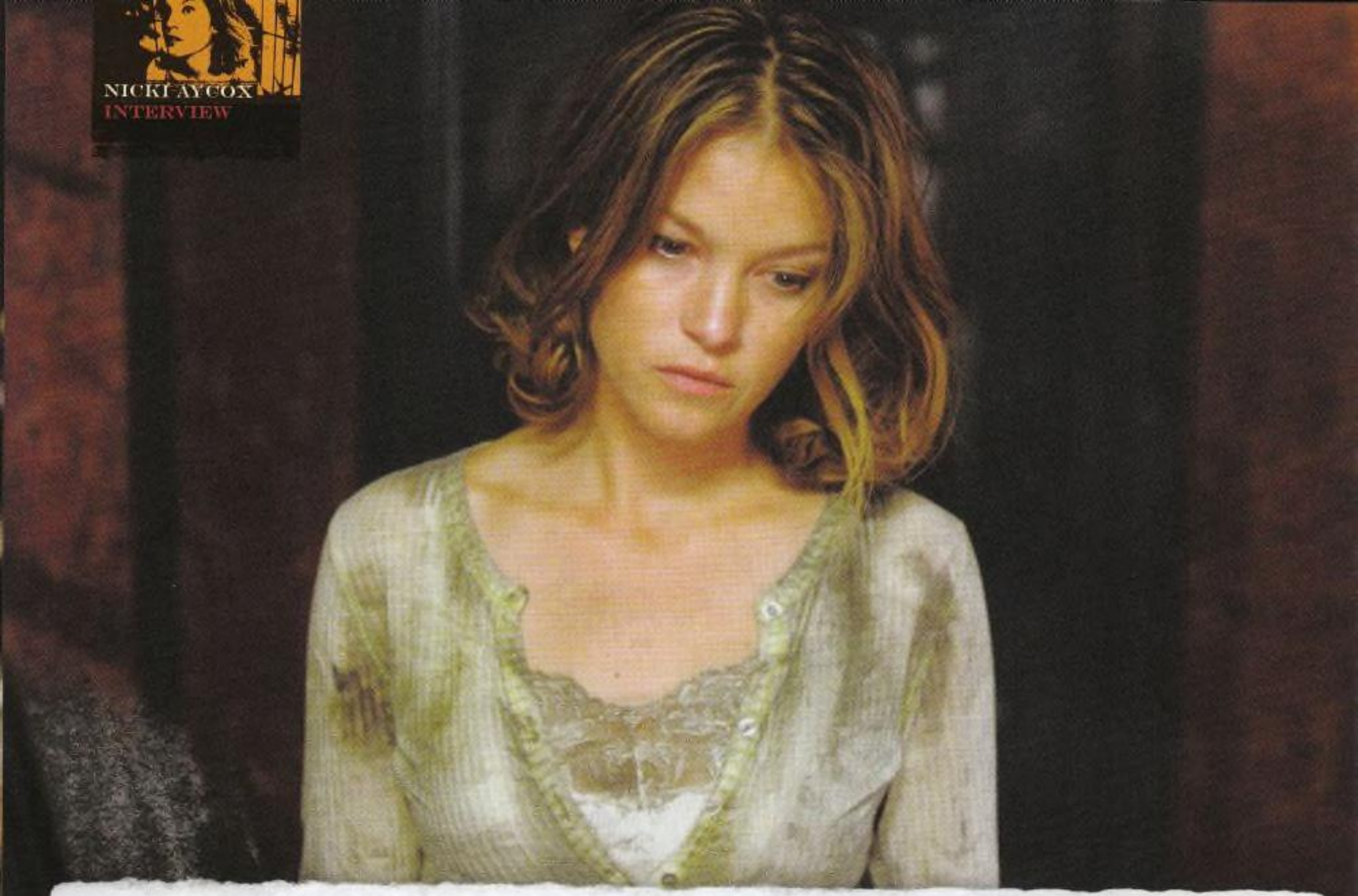




and physically taxing. "It was difficult," Aycox confirms. "It took 13 hours in one day, and then about a half a day on it the next day. For TV, that was a pretty long shoot for one scene. It was a long scene, though, and there was a lot in it. I loved how much the boys were there for me. We all knew it was going to be a big scene, so everybody just stayed around and supported each other. That was a really exciting day for me.

"It was always my favorite thing to work with both Jensen and Jared whenever we were on set because we got along so well, it was always so smooth, and it was always fun." Speaking of fun, one can't help but imagine that Aycox must have threatened to pull all kinds of pranks on the boys while they were tied to the poles in *Shadow*. "Oh yeah," Aycox agrees gleefully. "It was really fun for me to tie them up to the poles and dance around them. As soon as they got tied up, I was like, 'Oh, now you can't get me! I can do anything I want...' I heckled them the entire time. It was all in good fun."

Although Aycox refrained from actually pulling any pranks on Ackles and Padalecki, and vice versa, they did regularly try to make each other laugh or mess up their lines during each other's individual camera coverage. "That's something we all did to each other," Aycox reveals. They even targeted Jim Beaver [Bobby Singer]. "During the exorcism scene, when I was on the floor dying and Jensen was giving me water, Jim Beaver was bent over me, and we'd gotten to his coverage and Jensen and I were doing our parts for Jim so he could have the reactions to his lines. But, by that time, we were in that last little part of the scene and we were all so slap-happy [that] we could not stop laughing. Poor Jim, he kept it going and it didn't even faze him. Whenever we stopped, Kim Manners came in and said to Jim, 'I don't know how you kept a straight face through that!' We were always doing stuff like that. Jim's so professional that it doesn't even aggravate him, he doesn't get angry, he just keeps a straight face and keeps working while you're bursting [out laughing] on the other side of the camera. You don't want to do that to actors, it's not really fair, but sometimes when you've been working for 13 or 14 hours, you get a little silly, you can't help it. But he just stays in character, not worried about it, and then as soon as they call cut he's laughing with us."

Sadly, the exorcism was no laughing matter for the viewers, since it left fans of Nicki Aycox feeling like an empty meat sack without demon Meg to look forward to in season two. Of course, Meg did come back – *sort of* – in the episode *Born Under a Bad Sign*, when Sam's possessed by the same demon. So what did Aycox think of Padalecki's portrayal of the character she made popular?

"That's something I've been asked in every Q&A I've done about *Supernatural*," Aycox points out. "But until recently I hadn't seen it! So after I was asked again

"Meg was still angry. The only difference was human Meg had a *right* to be angry."

at EyeCon, I thought, 'That's ridiculous, Nicki, you've got to watch it, you've got to see what he did.' I think for a long time I was scared that I'd see something and say, 'Oh no, I don't act like that!' But he'd mentioned that he'd watched my scenes and watched me, and so I took a look and he was absolutely wonderful. I was nothing but flattered. I have a lot of my own personal mannerisms that I just threw in, like little tics and looks and things like that... and I think he was able to pick up on those just by us hanging out together in Vancouver. I was really impressed with him for being able to pick up on that and use it."

Ultimately, though, Padalecki's great performance only left fans longing even more for the return of Meg Masters. "I miss her," says Aycox, echoing her fans' sentiments. "But I didn't feel like I was really changing that much when I went back for this last episode [*Are You There, God? It's Me... Dean Winchester*]. Meg was still angry. The only difference was human Meg had a *right* to be angry. She was standing up for herself, a strong woman character saying, 'I'm going to fight for my own happiness and my rights.' I didn't feel that I was really playing anything completely opposite of what Meg the demon was. I felt like it was close to the same thing; it was just tweaked a little bit."

Yet some viewers likely questioned if Meg did have a right to be angry with Sam and Dean. After all, when she last saw the brothers, she *thanked* them for saving her... "I think thanking them was because of the initial, 'It's over for me, I don't have to live another day of my life like this' reaction. She was trapped in there, watching herself murder people. It was a nightmare. So I think the initial relief of knowing that you never have to spend another day in that type of situation is why there was the 'thank you.' Of course, when time passes, you start to realize all of these things that happened to you, and [that] they were horrible. You're going to go through another phase, another stage, and sometimes that's regret or sometimes that's depression or sometimes that's anger. So for me, going into it, I looked at it as another phase for Meg. She's past relief and the anger has come."

It was really easy for Aycox to get back into character because, as she puts it, "It was almost like a day hadn't passed. When I walked on set, the crew was the same, everyone was like, 'Nicki!' There was no getting-to-know-you-again period, it was just jump-right-in and that's what I love about going back to *Supernatural*. Every time I've gone back it's been as if no time has passed, because I feel like I belong. They always welcome me and make me feel that way."

Despite the familiarity of the *Supernatural* set, Aycox had a new experience on her first day back for *Are You There, God? It's Me... Dean Winchester*. "Jared and I were working together the first day [shooting the] scene with the fire gun. I'd never had one of those shot at me, and what happens is this kind of ribbon thing comes out of it and it explodes and creates fire. I'd actually had a little bit of an accident when I shot *Over There*. I got shot by a dust bullet from an AK-47, and within 10 seconds it had welted up my leg. So when they pointed that gun at me and they were about to call action, I said, 'Wait, wait, wait... You're gonna be standing *that* close to me?' And they said, 'No, it's okay,' and I said, 'Alright, but I really don't want my face burned off.' And Jared joked, 'It's okay, you have insurance, don't you?'

"They kept assuring me that it'd be

"The thing that's impressed me the most is that Meg is liked by men *and* women, not just men because of her sexuality."

fine. And of course they're not going to make me do something that I don't want to do, so the director [said], 'You know, Nicki, if you don't want to do it, that's okay.' A piece of me was nervous about it, but I trust those people so much and I trust Jared, and I told myself, 'It's going to be fine.' So I just stepped forward and shut my eyes until I kind of felt what it felt like... and it was nothing. I didn't feel anything. It was just a little bit of paranoia on my part. We laughed about it afterward."

Laughter is a common occurrence on the *Supernatural* set, and Aycox wants the readers to know that "the feeling the fans get from the guys, the pranksters and the fun, the joking and all of that, the fans are dead right about that. It's always been an absolute blast every time I'm on set. The guys make it that way."

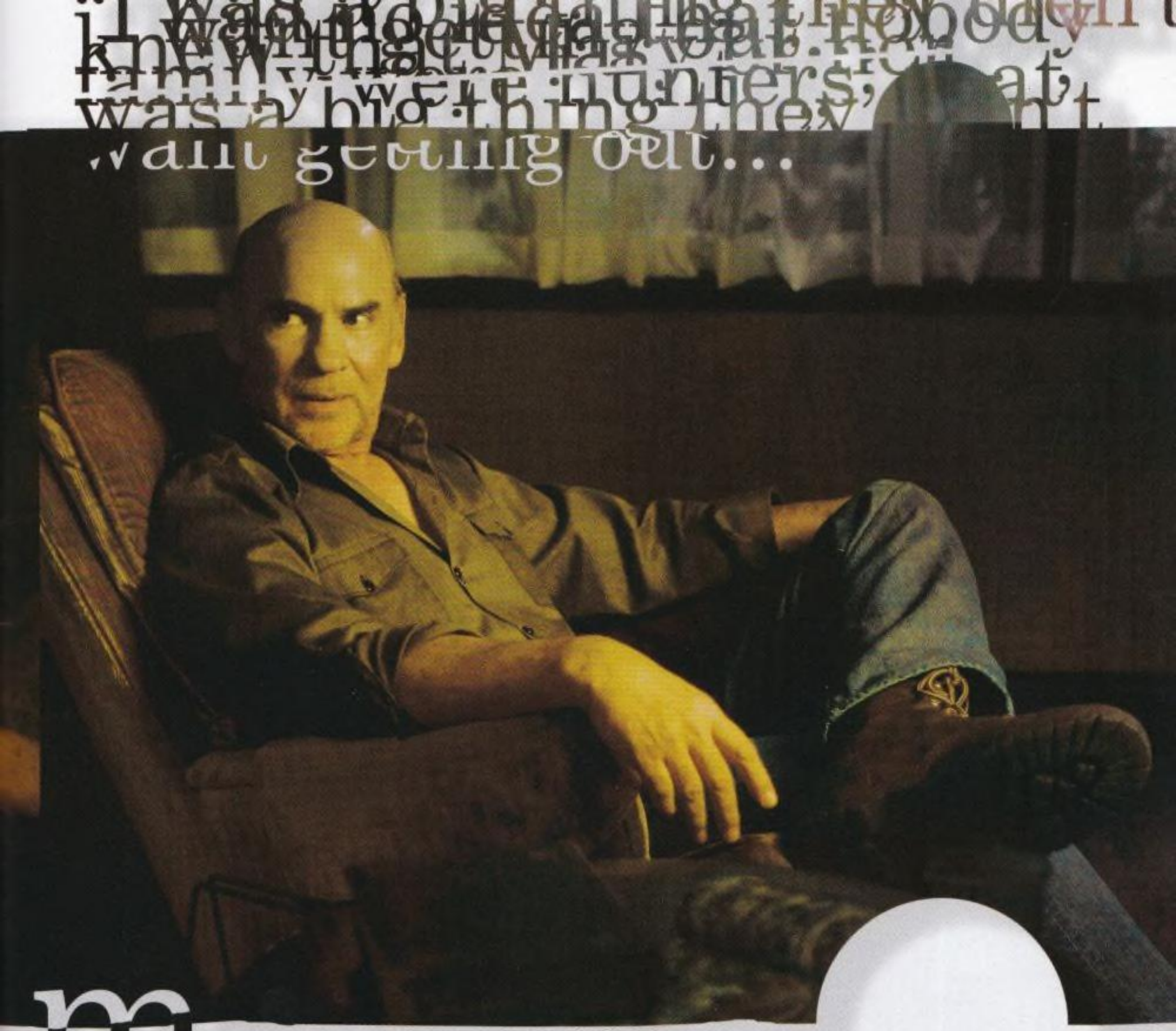
The fans' adoration of both the Winchesters and Meg is reciprocated by Aycox, who says "the fans are absolutely adorable and fun. I'm flattered and happy that [they] really like Meg so much. The thing that's impressed me the most is that Meg is liked by men *and* women, not just men because of [her] sexuality. It was my intention to give Meg a 'strong woman' quality. Very much the attitude [toward Sam and Dean] that, 'You may be two guys, but I'm just as tough and I can handle myself.' I think that's a good message for women to get, that we're strong and we can stand up for ourselves. Obviously, in reality, it's about being strong for the right reasons – fighting for good, not for evil."

At conventions such as EyeCon, the way the fans treated Aycox has left her with "a positive feeling and a great feeling about myself, and I just want to thank them for that, because they gave that to me and it's priceless. The one thing I've noticed about horror and sci-fi genre fans is that they tend to be the most positive people; they tend to really enjoy you and give positive feedback, and they don't seem to be as critical as other types of genre fans can be. That keeps me in the genre because I like to entertain people who have such positive energy. For me, it seems to be the best fan base to be a part of."

Long before Aycox became a fan icon, she was a fan of the genre herself. "I grew up loving the whole Freddie and Jason [movies] and all of that. It's been enjoyable for me, and because I have a history with it, it comes very easily to me. I also enjoy aspects of all different kinds of characters, so I like to go off and do other things as well... but I'll continue to do genre work as long as it's popular."

There's no doubt *Supernatural* will remain popular, so if the opportunity arose, will Aycox return to the set? "My answer is – and always will be – *absolutely*. I'd do anything for *Supernatural* because everybody's been so wonderful to me."

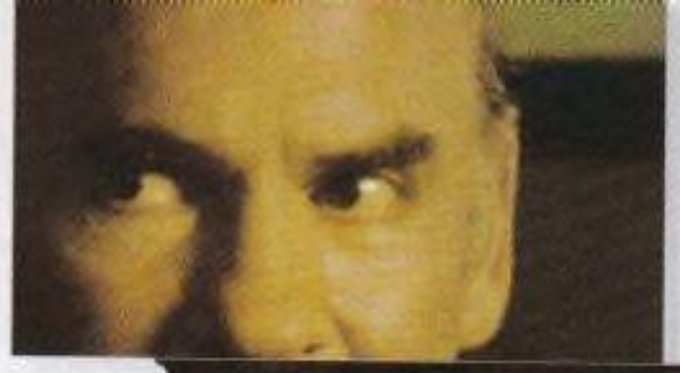
Blast From the



Past

Words: Jayne Nelson

Time-travel, demon deals and deadly possession – guest star Mitch Pileggi certainly chose an action-packed episode of *Supernatural* in which to make his mark as grandpa to the Winchester boys. We ask him about kissing, swearing, and the joy of being ol' Yellow Eyes...



Mitch Pileggi doesn't hesitate for a second when we ask him his favorite moment from the shooting of *In The Beginning*. "Kissing Amy!" he laughs, referring to his character's lip-lock with actress Amy Gumenick, who played his on-screen daughter Mary. His character Samuel was possessed by the Yellow-Eyed Demon – and Samuel was Mary's father, which obviously added a whole new level of 'ick' to the scene.

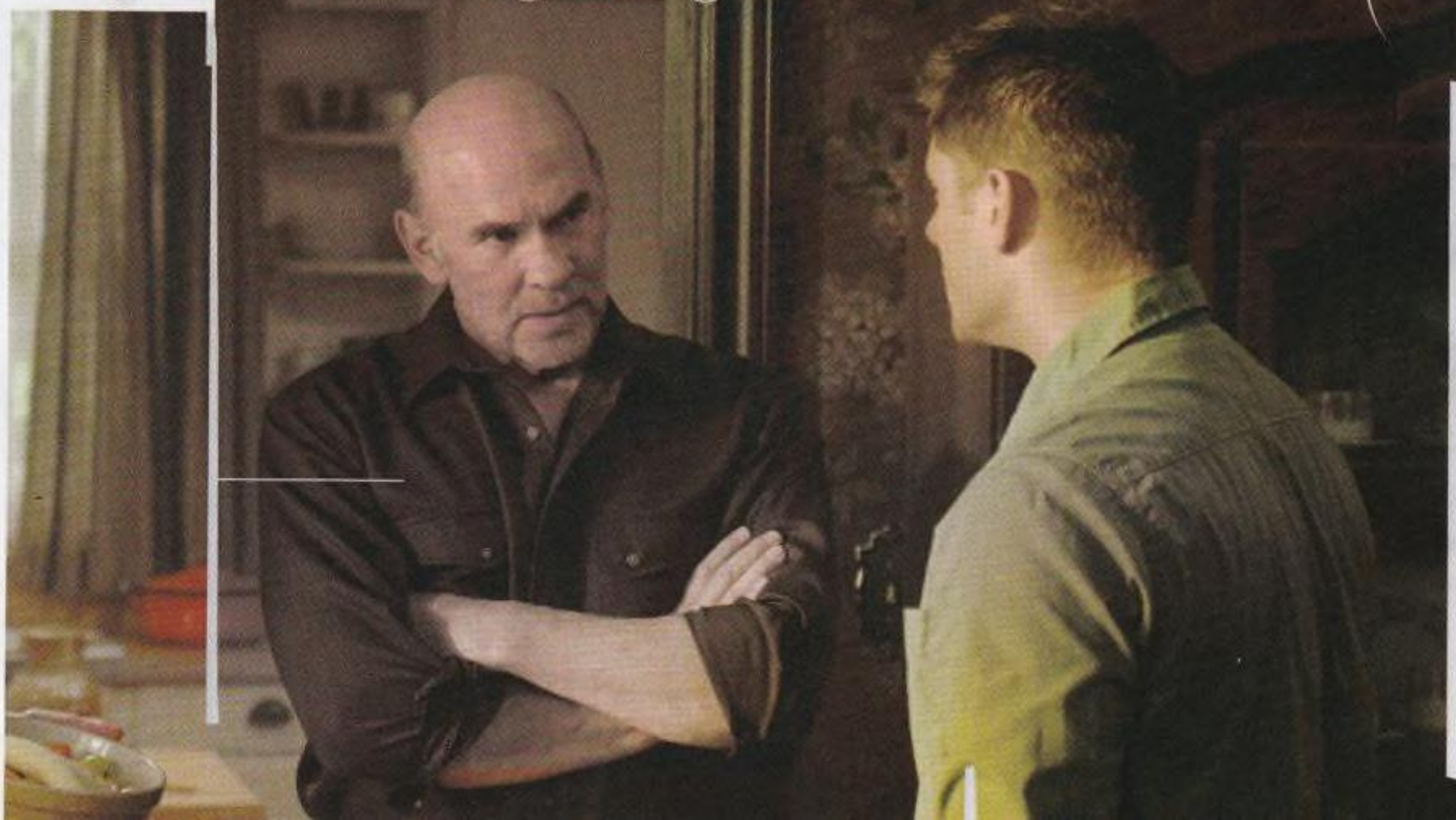
"Poor girl!" Pileggi remembers. "I was like, 'I'm sorry you gotta kiss your dad – this blows!' She was so cool about it! I was angsting about it more than [Amy] was. She was fine, but I was like, 'Oh no, you gotta kiss an old guy!'"

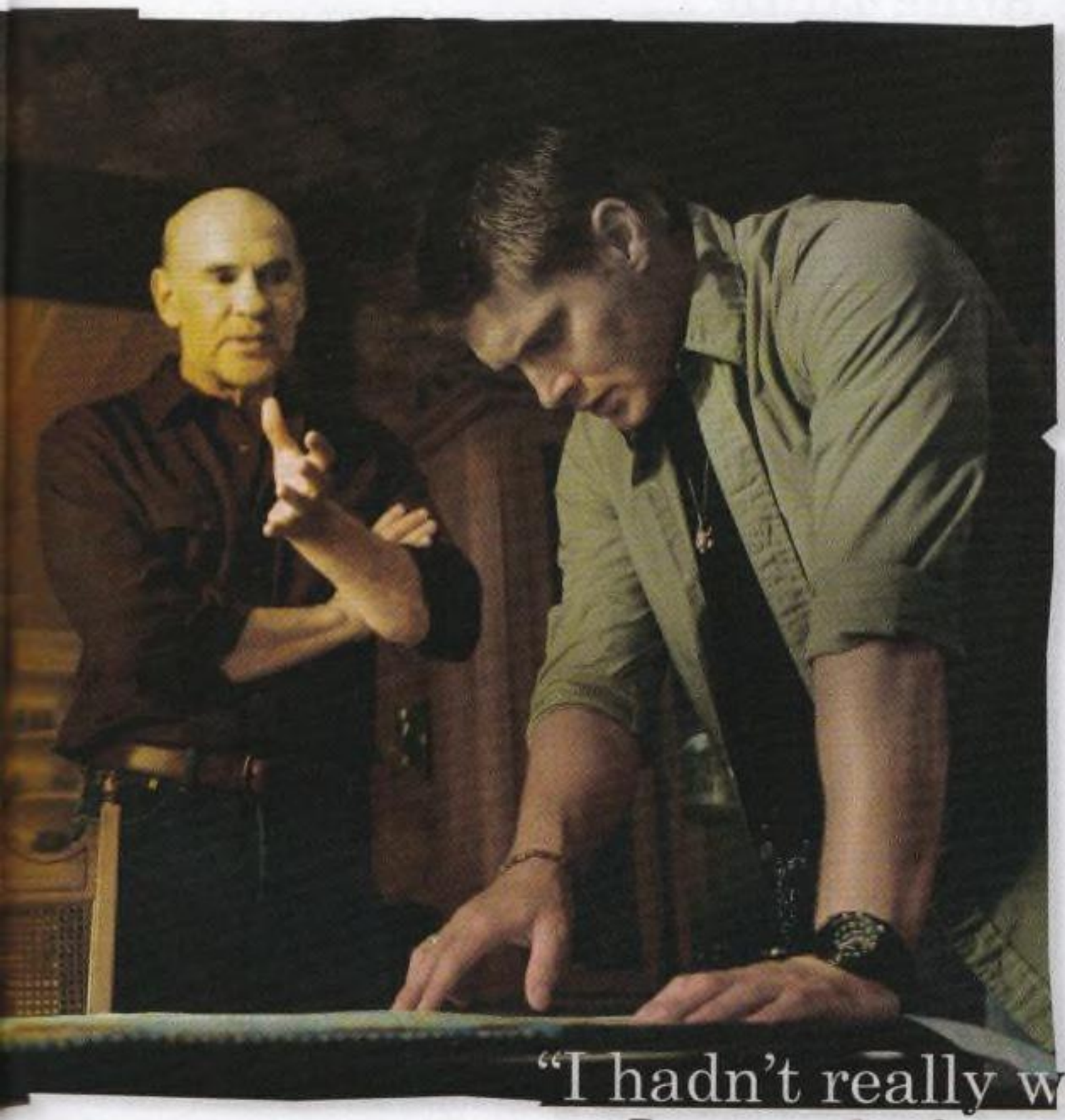
Pileggi might have guest-starred in only a single episode of *Supernatural*, but he certainly left a massive impression on both the series and the hearts of fans – probably because he was lucky enough to play not one but *two* important characters in the show's myth-arc: Samuel Campbell, grandfather to Sam and Dean, and the demonic Azazel (the Yellow-Eyed Demon).

The actor had to do some preparation for the latter role, having never watched the show before... "You know, I hadn't," he reveals. "My wife had watched *Supernatural* and she loved it and always talked about it, but I never got around to watching it," he reveals. "After I saw it I said to Eric Kripke, 'Why am I not watching this show? It's *good*!'"

Because he'd never seen *Supernatural*, Pileggi also had no inkling as to why *In The Beginning* was shrouded in so much secrecy during filming. "I had no idea that nobody knew that Mary or her family were hunters; that was a big thing they didn't want getting out," he says, with a wry chuckle. "After that I realized how huge it was for the fans!"

"I had no idea that nobody knew that Mary or her family were hunters; that was a big thing they didn't want getting out..."





Of course, *In The Beginning* sees Dean whisked back to 1973 to bump into his teenage parents, rather like Marty McFly in the movie *Back To The Future*, except that instead of having to get John Winchester and Mary Campbell to fall in love (they've already got that covered), he has to try to stop something terrible from happening. As ever with *Supernatural*, surprise follows surprise, right up until Pileggi's grumpy but good-hearted Samuel becomes the new host for an old enemy: Azazel.

"Before I went to do it, they gave me a couple of episodes to give me an idea of what Fredric Lehne had done with the character, because they wanted that flavor for the demon," Pileggi tells us, when we ask how he got into character as Azazel. "When they first said that they wanted me to emulate what he was doing, they said he was doing a kind of Jack Nicholson thing. I said, 'Okay, fine, I'm copying an actor who was copying another actor!'" He laughs. "I'm not saying that's what he was doing, but it did have that kind of flavor to it. I kind of did what I thought was right, but I put my own spin on it [as well]."

Did he have to wear contact lenses for the role of Yellow-Eyes?

"They fitted me for them, but they ended up doing the yellow eyes with CGI," says Pileggi, sounding relieved. "They didn't want them to be constantly yellow. Watching other people who'd had them in, it looked like they were having a really hard time seeing – I guess you really can't see that well with them. I was very happy about it when they said they'd put 'em in [digitally] every once in a while, at appropriate moments."

As well as bringing back an old enemy, *In The Beginning* also introduced us to Mary's family, including the woman who Dean was named after, Deanna (played by Allison Hossack). When we mention his fellow Campbells, Pileggi sounds wistful. "Yeah, the woman who played my wife... I felt so bad for her when I had to break her neck. Darn it! 'I wish I didn't have to do this, but...'" He laughs. "And Amy was just as sweet as can be, she was just a doll. I really enjoyed working with her."

After doing so much research to pin down the role of Azazel, playing Samuel must have been a lot easier. Pileggi agrees. "When I do a role I just kind of immerse myself in the script and what's going on, where he's at, what's he doing, the atmosphere, who he's talking to, and kind of let that take over. I just let it evolve and happen. I hadn't really watched Jared or Jensen before, but I guess I picked up on some of their beats, some of their characteristics in the way they play their characters."

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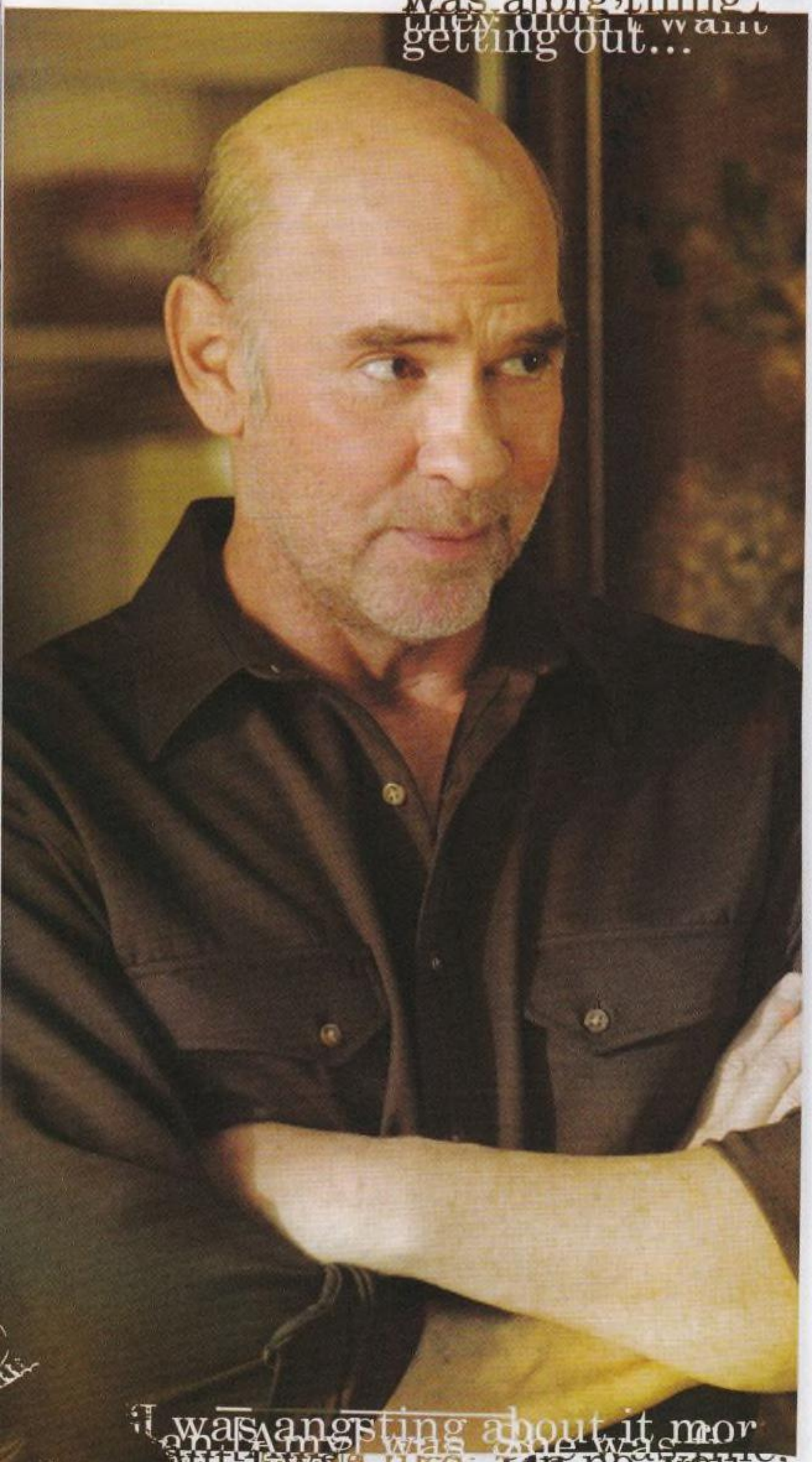
That might explain why, at one point in the episode, Samuel says "sonofabitch" and it sounds very similar to the way a certain Dean Winchester delivers the word... Pileggi grins. "You know, he said it to me earlier during filming when I was the Yellow-Eyed Demon – 'You sonofabitch, I'm the one who killed you!' – and when I used it, it wasn't scripted. I said to the director, Steve Boyum, 'When you get to my face, can I say sonofabitch?' And afterward I picked up on it – hey, this is what the guys say all the time! I guess it runs in the family!"

"I had no idea that nobody knew that Mary or her family were hunters, that was a big thing they didn't want getting out..."



HORROR STAPLE

As many reading this will probably know, Mitch Pileggi is no stranger to the world of horror and science fiction. "I think I can attribute that to walking into a room one day and meeting Wes Craven on a movie that I did," the actor muses (the film was 1989's *Shocker*, in which he played a serial killer back from the dead). "That pretty much set me up in the horror, sci-fi and fantasy genre for a long time."

Since then he's appeared on a multitude of shows, most recently popping up in a recurring role on *Stargate: Atlantis*. But there's one on his résumé that has a link with *Supernatural* – 2003's *Tarzan*, which was where he met Eric Kripke, who was writing and producing the series. "Eric was an *X-Files* fan before we even met, so he was aware of me. I think that may have had a lot to do with me getting called in and meeting him in the first place. Of course, David Nutter [the director of *Supernatural*'s first two episodes] was also the director of the pilot for *Tarzan*."

Which brings us to the one role everybody associates with Pileggi: Assistant Director Walter S. Skinner in *The X-Files*, which, just like *Supernatural*, was also filmed in Vancouver (for the first half of its run, at least). Given that several other *X-Files* alumni have moved onto *Supernatural*, was it a little bit of a reunion when he made the episode?

"There were quite a few people from the old *X-Files* crew working on the show," Pileggi agrees. "I work up in Vancouver so much that I have the good fortune to run into a lot of people I worked with on *The X-Files*, which is very cool! It was my family for five years, so when I get the chance to work with them again it's always great."

Pileggi also had a cameo role in the recent *X-Files* movie, *I Want To Believe*. Was it weird being Skinner again after so many years? He chuckles. "You know, I didn't have much to do, so it wasn't that hard! Basically kicking doors in and yelling at people – I was doing that for nine years, so I can pretty much do it in my sleep!"

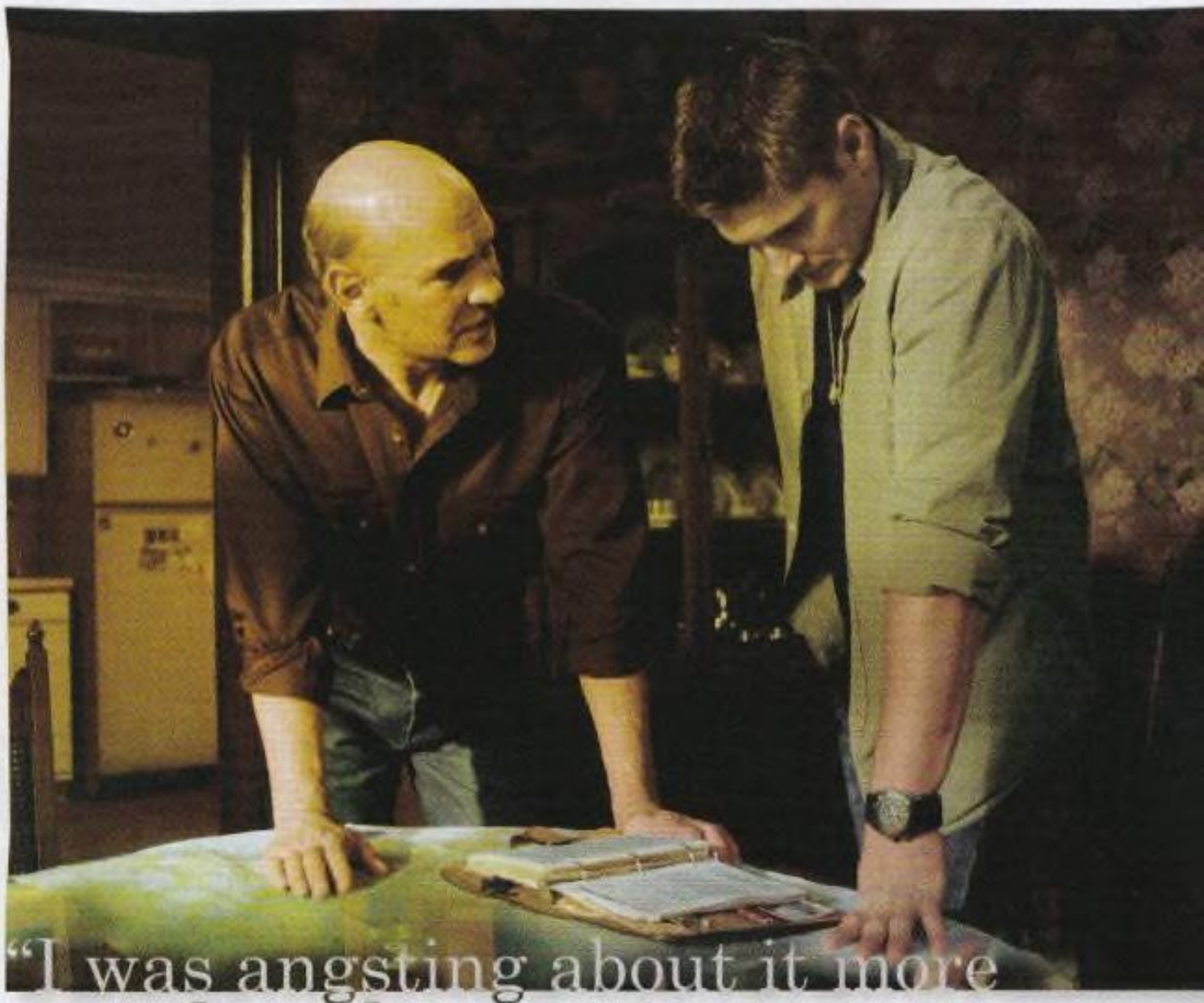
GOOD TO BE BAD

Thanks to the demands of the script, Pileggi spent most of his *Supernatural* episode working with Jensen Ackles, as Sam didn't really feature in the story. "Jared wasn't there – he had most of the episode off as his character kind of bookended the show," Pileggi recalls. "However, I think he took a quick trip to Hawaii and they made Jensen suffer through that. From what I understand, the crew would put postcards from Hawaii on the camera when Jensen was doing a scene."

Wow, that's just… evil. "It is! It's mean! He was like," he sighs, pretending to be a miserable Jensen, "'Okay, alright…' But I met Jared, and he's one of the sweetest guys, and working with Jensen was just a dream. The guy's a pro. He's good, no attitude, he's there to work and still has a good time, too. I was really happy to be there."

Has he had any feedback from fans about his work on the show? "As a matter of fact, I was at the gym yesterday and a guy came up to me and said that he was a really big *Supernatural* fan and that he saw the episode and loved it. Eric called me and told me that some of the publicists from Warner Bros. had called to say that the fans were very happy with what we did, and I was very happy about that!

"Playing the Yellow-Eyed Demon was a hoot," he continues, adding that sometimes it's *good* to play *bad*. "It really is; there's so much more there. I've just finished doing an episode of *Criminal Minds*, in which I'm playing a guy whose five-year-old daughter gets crushed in front of him by a car and he just goes haywire. You're able to work



"I was angsting about it more than [Amy] was. She was fine, but I was like, 'Oh no, you gotta kiss an old guy!'"

so much crap out of your system! When I came home I was a much nicer person! It's almost like therapy, but it was so exhausting that I'm [still] getting my breath and recovering from that. It was pretty brutal. I worked with [*In The Beginning* director] Steve Boyum again on that."

Did Boyum request him? "Yeah, and that's the quickest it's ever happened," Pileggi says. "When we finished shooting *Supernatural* Steve said, 'Would you be in my stable of actors that I use?' and I said, 'Oh, yeah!' He called me up right away with probably one of the greatest roles I've ever had."

So, we have one final question. Now that we know what Samuel Campbell was doing in 1973 (saving people, hunting things, meeting a sticky end), what was Pileggi himself doing? He thinks about it for a few moments. "I would have been 21. I was just finishing school in Munich at an American university there, and from there I went to Saudi Arabia, so I was working out there for a while. I didn't really start acting until I came back; I was in the Middle-East for a long time. I was in Iran in 1978, and I left there right before the Shah left and the revolution started. I came back to the States and that's when I went back down to Texas and started acting."

Pileggi's real life couldn't be more different from the hunter he ended up portraying in Lawrence, Kansas in the same period. "I had a great time doing it, and hopefully, if they could figure it out, I could do it again," Pileggi says of the role, although he isn't sure exactly *how* they could bring him back. "Unless they need me as what they call the 'meat-suit'! I don't know what kind of shape I'd be in, but I'd go back in a second."

From Hell

Words: Bryan Cairns

It's not easy stepping into a role formerly played by someone else, but actress Genevieve Cortese has made quite an impact already as the latest incarnation of the infamous Ruby. She spoke to *The Official Supernatural Magazine* about embodying the demon...

***The Official Supernatural Magazine*: How did you first get into acting?**

Genevieve Cortese: My grandmother introduced me to acting when I was about six years old. She used to take me to the theater, so I have been pretty much doing [this] since the 4th grade. I did a lot of local community plays, and then I went to Tisch [School of the Arts] at NYU [New York University].

What was your first big break?

I got a [part in a] small movie called *Mojave* pretty much the first month out of college. Right afterward, I was on *Wildfire*, a TV show on the ABC Family channel. I've been working pretty much non-stop since I got out [of school], but it's been nice.

You gained quite the fanbase from *Wildfire*. What was that like?

It was great, and I couldn't be more grateful. It was such an adorable show, and to have people respond to it and follow it from the beginning has been really special for me. It allowed me to grow up on a series, as it was my first television show. Getting the lead on it was a bit crazy, and to have so many people love it as much as I did was a totally unreal experience. I feel really blessed, and it's nice, too, because [those] fans have followed me over to *Supernatural*.

Isn't it ironic that you went from a wholesome ABC family series like *Wildfire* to something as dark as *Supernatural*?
It's quite ironic, but to be honest with you, behind the scenes on *Wildfire* wasn't so innocent! On the surface, I come off very cute and wholesome with that ABC Family image, but there are a lot of things about me that are deeper and darker. That's why I really appreciate something like *Supernatural* and the role they gave me. There's so much depth to Ruby. Not only has she been through hell, but there's so much more to [her story than that]. It's nice to be able to sink my teeth into something and bring a little more color.

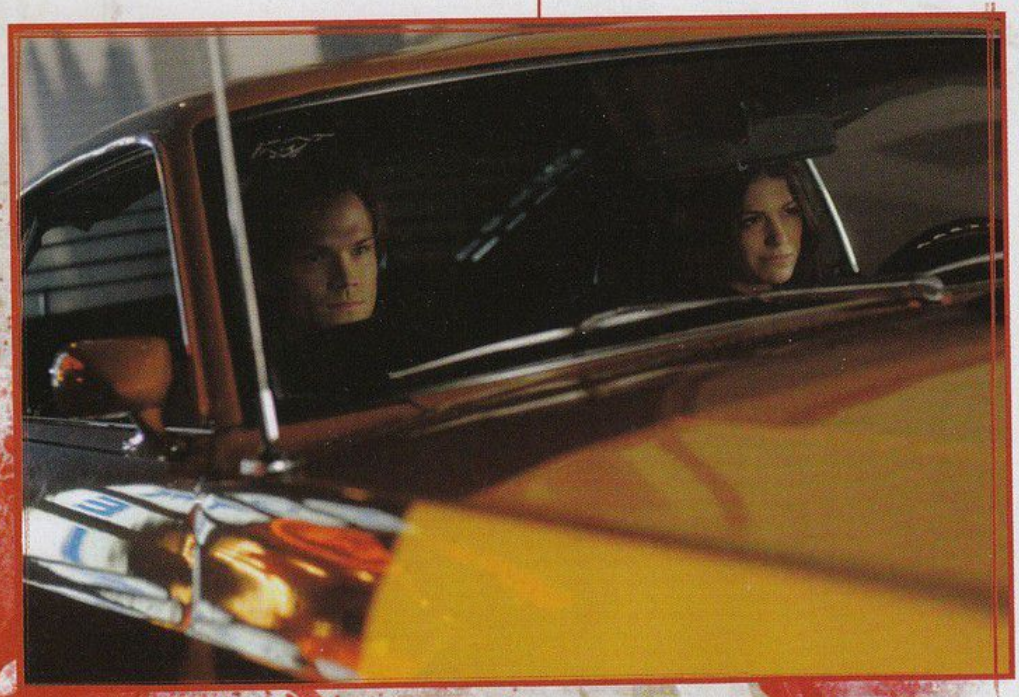
Were you well-versed in the world of *Supernatural* before being cast as Ruby?
I knew a little bit about the show. Honestly, I love it, but half the time, I have to turn away. I was at the gym the other night and caught the first 10 minutes of an episode. I'm running on the treadmill, yelling at the TV, looking away, tripping over myself, and people were staring at me. It was the episode where the guy eats the razor blades in the candy [*It's The Great Pumpkin, Sam Winchester*] and I'm like "Oh, God! Oh, God!" I have a hard time watching it, but I'm aware [of the *Supernatural* universe]. As for Ruby, I didn't even know I was going to play her until I pretty much got to Canada. A lot of it I learned from the crew, cast, and writers.

Considering you were the second Ruby, was it a long audition process?
It wasn't a huge process. They were really familiar with my work on *Wildfire*, which I think propelled me on [to] the show. It wasn't the long process it could have been, but it has been a process finding the depth and who Ruby is.

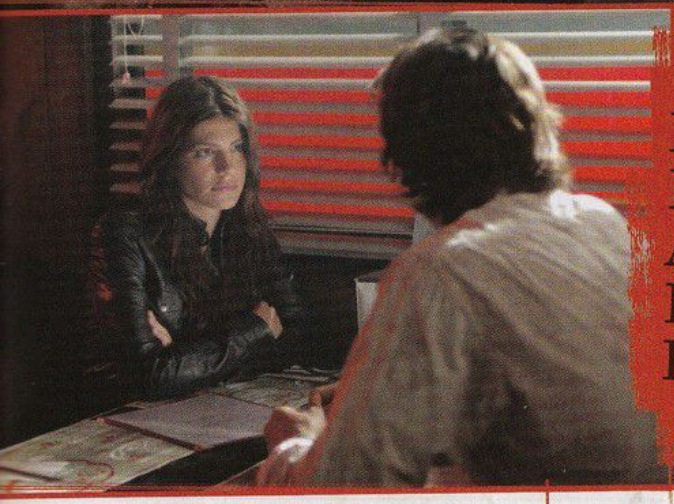
Early on, it was advertised your character would be a waitress and possible love interest for Sam over multiple episodes. What kind of a breakdown of the character did you receive?
The same thing. I thought I was going to be Kristy the waitress. You have to love Eric Kripke, because he keeps you on your toes. On *Wildfire*, my character had a lot of inner strength and there was stunt work. I feel I've proven myself being the lead of a show, but they understood I could handle myself. I had no idea about the grittiness I would have to bring to Ruby. I pretty much got up there and it was "Time to play!" It's been an amazing experience.

One of the big twists in the season four premiere was Ruby's return. Was that difficult to keep under wraps?
Absolutely. It's still hard for me, because the story continues to grow. I can't tell you how excited I was about episodes nine and ten. I'm so excited about the relationships and the work we put into it.

From Ruby's introduction in Sam's hotel room, fans were speculating whether they were intimate with each other. What was your take on that?
In the premiere, I was unsure, because at first I thought I was playing the love interest and then I'm not. Initially I did it a bunch of different ways so that we could maneuver it. It wasn't really until the second episode that it started making a little more sense. In the back of my mind, I always thought Ruby was in love with Sam. If you watch the third season when Ruby is first introduced, the way Katie



supernatural.ru



"THE BOYS MAKE FUN OF ME ALL THE TIME. THEY HAVE A GOOD FOOT ON ME AND ARE REALLY GIANTS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEIR PARENTS FED THEM!"

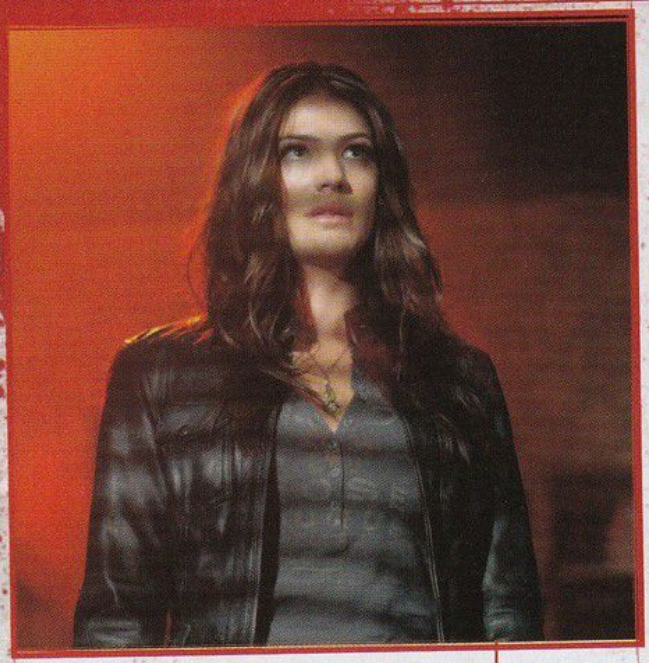
[Cassidy] did it was very tough, and she's hard to get close to. If you watch the two of them together, Ruby's very similar to Dean. They're very protective, and I think the whole point of that is to see if Sam can step up to the plate. It's also to protect herself. Is Ruby ready to get involved in this and see if Sam can accomplish the task she knows he is capable of? This season it's been very important to bring more of a humanity to it, and I'm sure the fans are going to be upset when they hear that, but she was human and has said that in the last two seasons. As an actress, it's important to look at what that means, what it's like to love someone, be hurt, and be happy. At this point, Sam's proven himself, so whether he fully reciprocates her feelings, I don't know, but she's in love with him. It's also important to know what Ruby has given up to be with him. She can't be in Heaven or Hell, so she has no one. She can't even walk around outside by herself. Sam is the only one she has.

Ruby has always been this enigmatic presence. Is she hanging around because of these emotions then?

I have two theories. One, when she initially went to Hell at the very beginning, I feel there was someone in her life [who Sam] reminds her of. That's more of an actor thing I've created on my own. Also, I think Ruby sees a lot of potential in Sam. He has something she can nurture. It's almost like a mother bear and her cub [in terms of] how protective she is. In [*I Know What You Did Last Summer*] I'm teaching him how to exorcise a demon and the demon is laughing at Sam. I immediately go up to the demon, whack him, take the knife, and stab him right in the throat. Sam's all I have, so it's almost like giving birth, in a weird, messed-up way.

Being a demon, could Ruby be seeking redemption?

Yeah, that's part of it. Obviously, she still has her own hate and rage, but at this point, Ruby's suppressed a lot. For me, the most important thing we've discussed this season is for Ruby to have a calmness and be more fear-driven, as opposed to [being], "I'm gonna kick the crap out of everyone!"-driven.



Dean has never been a big supporter of Ruby. Do you feel he's warmed up to her at all?
Yes, there's a little scene where he finally says thank you in his own way. [Dean and Ruby] are kind of similar, where they filter out the bull around them. If something doesn't feel right, they're quick to get rid of it. Perhaps that's why there's some friction. This season, Ruby's constantly proving to Dean that she's okay and that she's not going to sell them out. Whether or not I do, I don't know yet. Maybe this is all manipulative. The Winchester boys are a package deal, though.

Ruby's gotten violent with Dean before, and she's definitely a scrapper. Have you had the opportunity to really cut loose yet?
I did, which was nice, because I have a lot of experience in stunt work from *Wildfire*. I'm really athletic, so it's a blessing [that] I've gotten to do that. In episode nine, there's a good fight sequence where Sam wants to go avenge a death and go get Lilith. I'm like "No, stop! You're not ready!" He goes off whether I like it or not and then I show up at the scene. It's chaotic and I got to kick some ass, which was really fun!

Lilith essentially killed Ruby in last year's finale. Were you eager to exact some revenge?
Hell yeah, of course! I want to beat the crap out of her. If you look at that finale last year and the way Katie plays it, it's like, "I would never wish that upon anyone" when Lilith sends Dean to Hell. There's an immense sense of guilt.

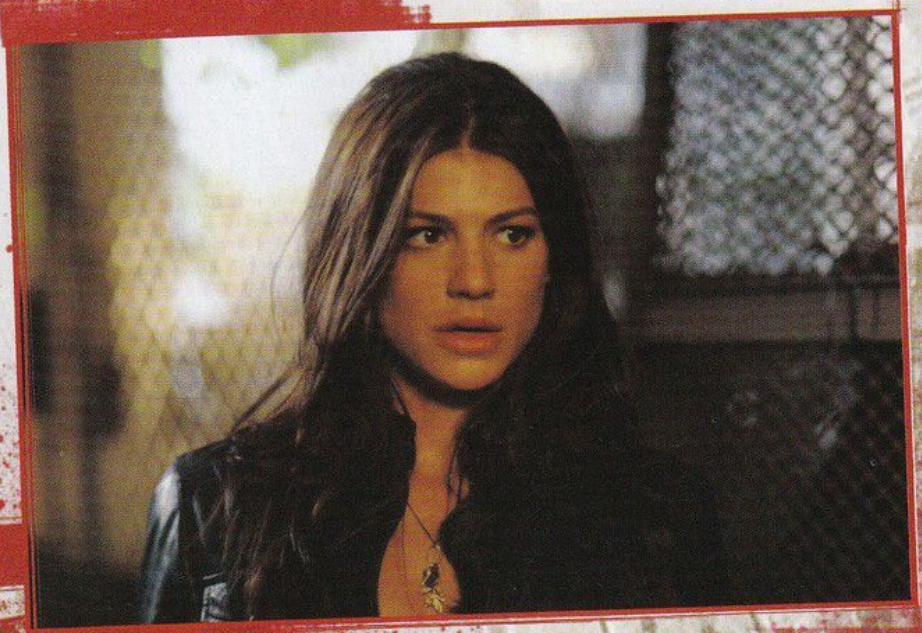
I hope you're not kicking around some little Lilith girl, though!
[*Laughs*] As messed-up as this show is, I don't think that would be appropriate! I'm probably the same height as the Lilith girl, and the boys make fun of me all the time. They have a good foot on me and are really giants. I don't know what their parents fed them!

As a demon, Ruby has every right to be scared of the angels. Have they had much interaction?
[Until *I Know What You Did Last Summer*], she's stayed clear and never met one of them. There's a scene where I basically have to give myself up to the demon Alastair to save the boys. He just tortures the crap out of me and rips me to shreds. It's like "Okay, I'll do it!" but if it were an angel, I'd be gone. For Ruby, the thought of losing Sam is *way* worse than dying herself.

How was it filming those torture scenes with Alastair?
They were unbelievably intense. I'd never experienced that before. Having my arms bound to a metal chair, pretty much naked and completely vulnerable, was pretty scary. On top of it, to have my own knife used against me was horrific. It was incredibly grotesque and frightening. You leave a little bit shaken, but it's really important for people to see what Ruby's willing to do to save them. You're not even sure whether she's going to make it or not.

The show recently tackled the history of the body Ruby now inhabits. What were your thoughts on that development, and did it help you understand Ruby more?
She did it for Sam. Ruby went through a couple of bodies and Sam was like, "What are you doing?" She responded, "I'm here to help you. God, the things I went through for you and you don't even say thank you?" He's like, "Whose body is that?" Obviously, there was another Ruby coming around, so Sam's said, "I'm not going to talk to you until you have a different body." Ruby comes back in this body because she was a coma patient. As soon as this girl's spirit left the body, Ruby [took it over]. Technically, there was no one but Ruby in the body, so it's ethically okay somehow. She's basically doing everything for Sam.

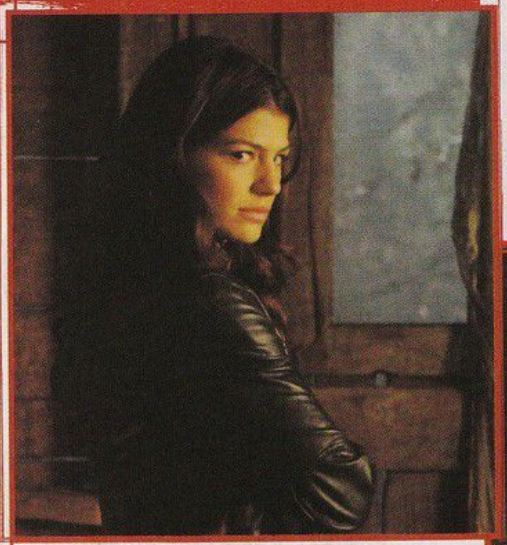
Did you check out any of the online feedback for your version of Ruby?
I did [after] the first episode [*Lazarus Rising*], because I wanted everyone to like me, but it's not about that. I concluded I have to pay



"I [THINK] RUBY SEES A LOT OF POTENTIAL IN SAM. HE HAS SOMETHING SHE CAN NURTURE. IT'S ALMOST LIKE A MOTHER BEAR AND HER CUB [IN TERMS OF] HOW PROTECTIVE SHE IS."

attention to my job and do it the best way I can. I'm a theater-trained actor, a smart girl, and I've had many discussions with Eric and the producers about Ruby's direction, and we're all on the same page. And hey, I'd get pissed off if any girl came between those two guys. They're gorgeous!

I'm sure you protest when you have to kiss Jared!
I know! I'm going to get roasted! I have a great sex scene with him [in *I Know What You Did Last Summer*].



For whatever reason, some *Supernatural* fans really have issues accepting female characters.
As I said, I'd hate anyone who got close to [Sam and Dean], too! I want them all to myself! I was warned about the comments, though. Actually, I had a lot of *Wildfire* fans who were also *Supernatural* fans, write to me and say "Oh my gosh! We heard you were on *Supernatural*. Please don't worry! They're not going to like you!" I was really well aware of it, although I've never experienced it before. I just have to do my job and keep going.

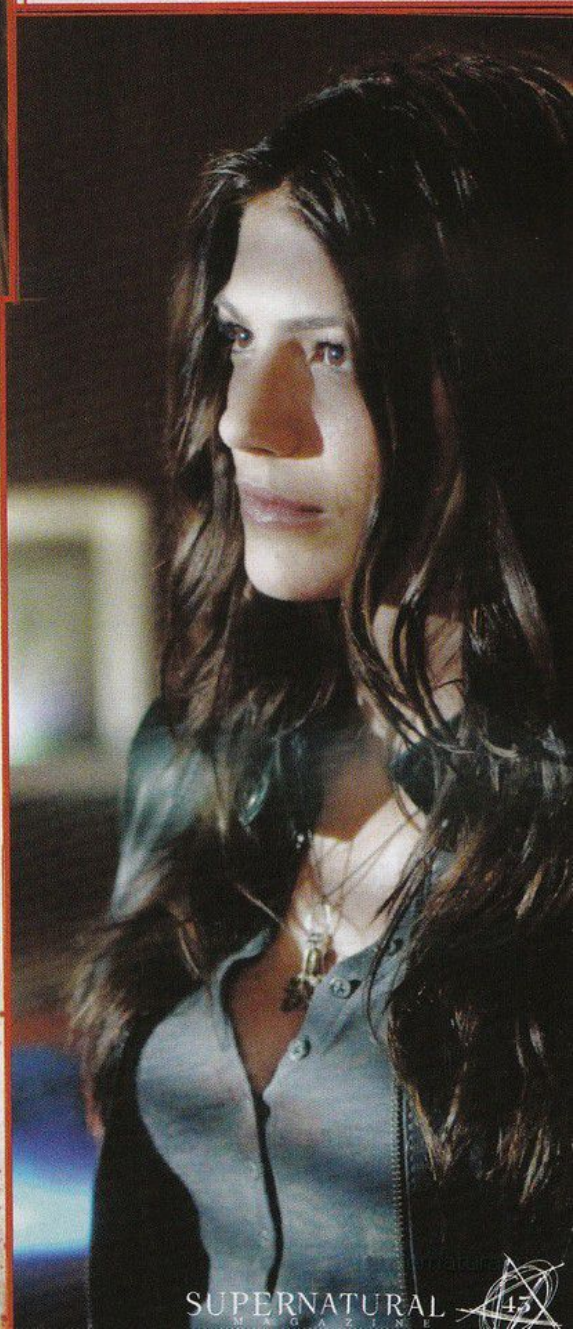
By the end of the episode *Heaven And Hell*, do you consider Ruby a friend or foe?
At that point, I'd say she's a friend. Everyone is just incredibly shocked [Sam and Dean] don't choose the angel side, not that she chooses the demon side instead. She's not exactly huge fans of them either. It really makes you think it's not always black and white, or that good always wins. I know I'm gonna massacre this, but one of my favorite quotes is "Be kind to every person you meet, for every soul is engaged in a great battle." It's the same going on here, where everyone is struggling, and there is no right or wrong.

What's it been like working alongside Jared and Jensen?
It's like I was back on *Wildfire*, where the people were so much fun and we all laughed. It's really nice and comfortable. I couldn't ask for a better group of people.

Have you fallen victim to any of their pranks?
We always try and one-up each other. We make fun of each other a lot. They make fun of me by pretending they can't see me because I'm so short. And anytime Jared takes his shirt off, I pretend I'm throwing up!

How have you handled all the grueling late-night shoots?
It's been good. I like working late, and I'm more of a night person. I prefer going into the wee hours of the night. When you're really tired, it forces you to suck it up and use every creative juice you have. I really enjoy the challenge.

Do you have any highlights from the series so far?
My favorite episode is probably *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, because I really get down and dirty. They really explore Ruby, too. My favorite moment is when I'm in the car with Julie McNiven, who plays Anna. We're in the back seat with Jared and Jensen in the front. I'm huddled over to one side, because I don't want to be close to her. It's an angel and a demon in the back of a car, which is hilarious!



Hell Breaks LOOSE

Words: Bryan Cairns

The Winchesters have met some evil demons, but arguably the nastiest is Dean's torturer in Hell, Alastair. *The Official Supernatural Magazine* caught up with the actor who played his first "meat suit," MARK ROLSTON...

With a series of villainous and tough-guy roles under his belt in movies like *Aliens*, *Asylum*, and the *Saw* movies, as well as shows like *Angel* and *24*, Mark Rolston proved to be the ideal choice to play the demon Alastair. As the demon who'd tortured Dean for decades in Hell, and who made the elder Winchester brother his apprentice in cruelty, Rolston brought a new level of menace to the show. Turning the tables on Hell's grand inquisitor, we got to ask him a few questions...

***The Official Supernatural Magazine*: It seems like the majority of your performances are as bad guys. What makes you the go-to-guy for villains?**

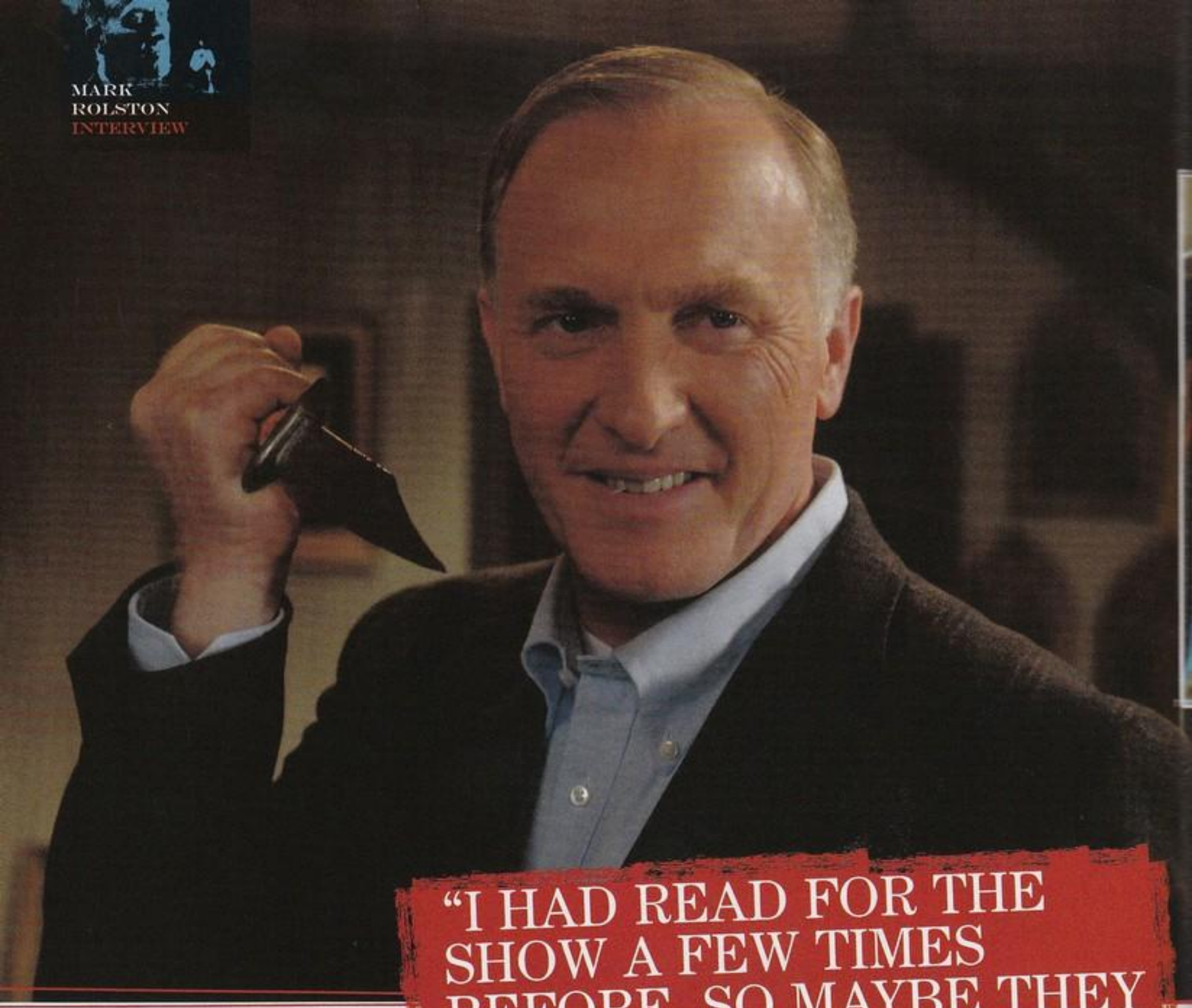
Mark Rolston: You know, my mother asked me that: "Where do you get that?" I honestly don't know. Obviously, playing the bad guy is more interesting than being the romantic lead. I guess I just have a weakness for wickedness!

Were you a *Supernatural* viewer before you landed the role of Alastair?

My teenage daughters are in love with Jared Padalecki and Jensen Ackles. They watch the show, so I've caught glimpses of it. I hadn't actually sat down with them, but I'd heard of "the boys." There's been talk around the table of, "Oh God! He's *so* cute!"

What was it that brought you to the series then?

Like always, they put out a breakdown. You get in the room with the producers, and Eric Kripke was there. I had read for the show a few times before, so maybe they were just saving me for this particular role because he was so wicked! We got into the room and I had this spark about this guy who assumes other characters. I'm dressed like I'm a psychiatrist or an accountant, yet I'm this mean, badass demon. What really came to me was this voice. It's particular, odd, and can be wicked, but at the same time, very believable. That's what I developed the character around. I've never done anything remotely like that in my life. As an actor, you're always trying to find that little spark. In my career, I've played a number of bad guys, so you want to find a new thing that really gets you excited. I had the best time of, potentially, my career playing this role. I really loved it.



"I HAD READ FOR THE SHOW A FEW TIMES BEFORE, SO MAYBE THEY WERE JUST SAVING ME FOR THIS PARTICULAR ROLE BECAUSE HE WAS SO WICKED!"

Alastair is anything but your run-of-the-mill thug or demon. What kind of outline did you receive on him?

On paper, he was described as a badass demon who was dressed like a psychiatrist. He was a normal-looking guy who was evil, and hence we came up with his little weird hair thing. The hairdresser was great, so we pulled it into a weird style that looked normal and bookish. The clothing made me look preppier than if I was leather clad like in *Mad Max*.

He almost comes across as the Godfather of demons.

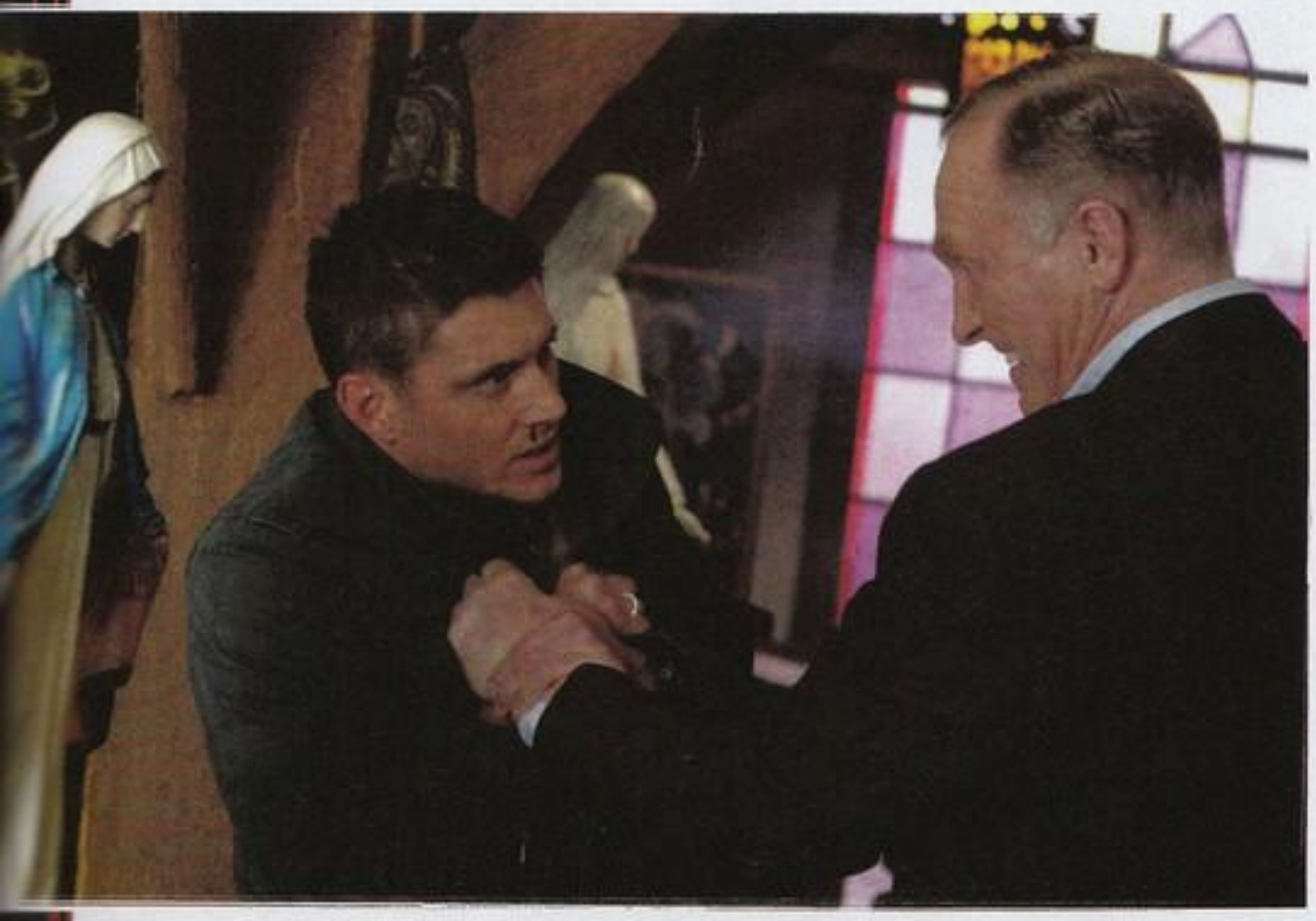
Yeah, the John Gotti of demons [*laughs*]. It was such a joy, and the director, J. Miller Tobin, was fantastic. He gave me free rein and reeled me back on occasion. All the scenes were so delicious.

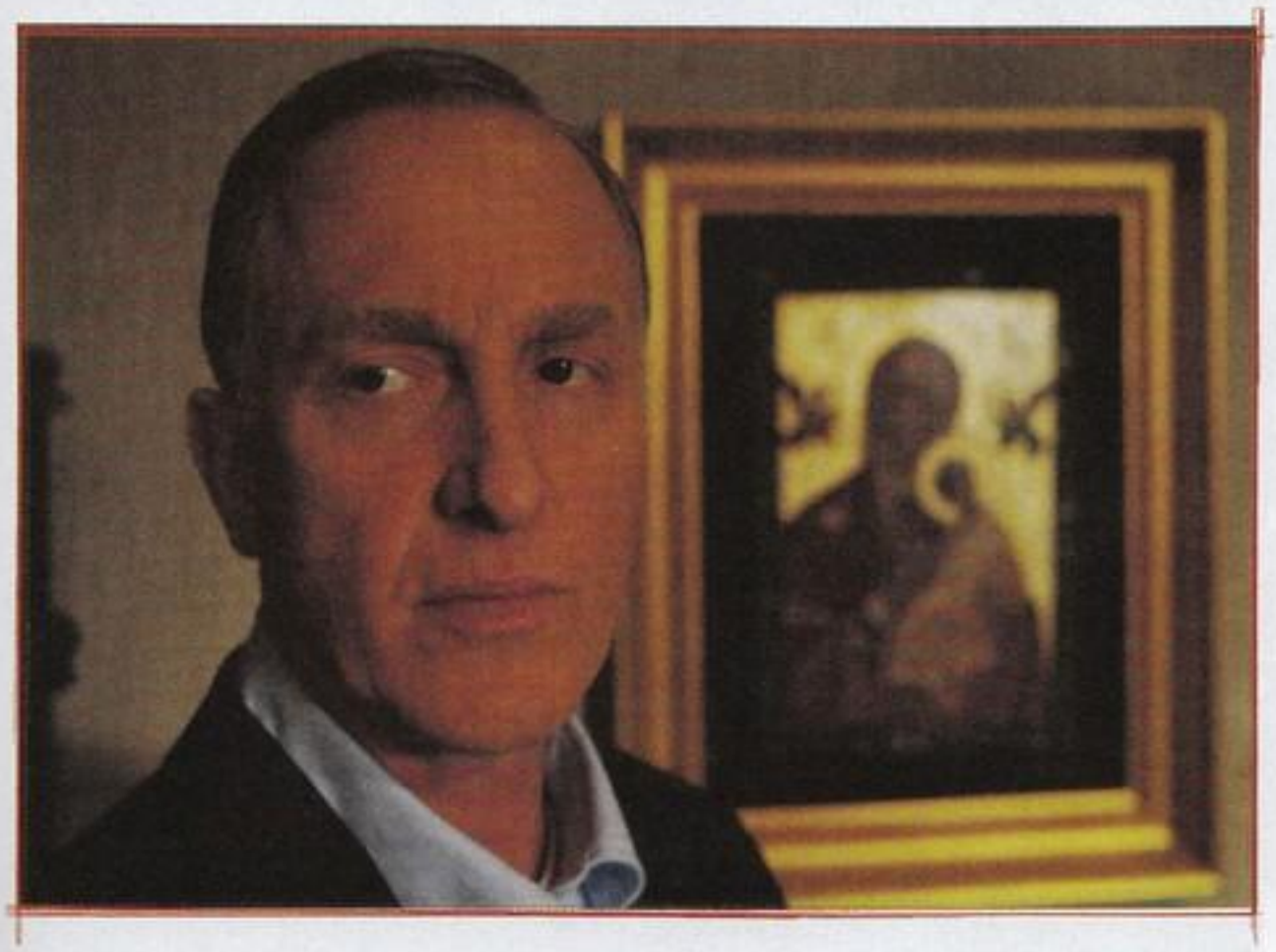
In what ways did Alastair's history with Dean add another level to the character?

Automatically, I felt I was really part of the series. It wasn't like I was just dropping in to the world of *Supernatural* and nobody knew anything about me. The boys knew who I was, so there was that element of surprise and fear in them. Ruby keeps coming in going "Somebody really bad is going to show up!" Then when it's me, the brothers are kind of stammering and know they have a real fight on their hands. That was great for me, because I felt like part of *Supernatural*'s history, and it helped create a lot of dramatic tension.

Plus, Alastair and Dean were both Hell-bound buddies.

In my mind, it was more like I was a mentor. I had that one line of "Dean, you had such promise!" It was almost like Marlon Brando [in a Brando-style voice] "You could have been a contender. You really could have been somebody. A great demon."





Between Ruby freaking out and the statue bleeding, Alastair's introduction certainly had a foreboding build-up.
I loved it. It was really well done in terms of the writing. The crew in Canada is great and did an amazing job on that set. In that first scene, we're in this attic with all this biblical stuff. That exact set and building was then converted into the barn for the second episode. It was amazing how they transformed it. Obviously, a lot of production design went into it. I understand *Supernatural* is trying to be edgier, so imagery like blood coming out of the Madonna's eyes is treading that line.

Alastair was gunning for Anna, yet it felt like he was as invested in reuniting with Dean.
Very much. I just imagined that when I was in Hell, I really took Dean under my wing. I wanted him to be something great. When he split, you feel kind of spurned or left out of the loop. Even though I exact a beating on him in my first episode because he did me wrong, in the second one, I'm hoping he might come back into the fold. I think there is a whole lot of mileage to get out of Alastair and Dean.

In *I Know What You Did Last Summer*, Alastair really ripped the Winchesters a new one. What were some of the challenges of filming that confrontation?
That it was shot very quickly! The night we were doing that scene, we had to get a whole lot of work done. I mean, a lot! That's part of the challenge of a show like this. They pack so much into the script, and I'm sure the producers want a lot of bang for the buck, but man, did we ever work fast! I've boxed in my career and done martial arts, and I have to say the boys were right on. We did it in one or two takes. When they put the breakdown out for the character, it said, "Must be able to fight." That's important, because sometimes you get an actor who isn't very adept at fighting. It can look weak, but I think our fight stuff looked fantastic! It was down and dirty. I always loved the fact you're never hitting someone, but if you really sell it, it looks great! I was telling some friends the other day that what was really great about Alastair was having this contained power. With just one sweep of a hand, I can send somebody flying across the room. You should have seen this stunt rig they made up. On a cable, they flung a guy across the room and he went barreling down the stairs. It was phenomenal!

When Ruby approaches Alastair with an offer, are those verbal sparring matches as rewarding as the physical elements?
Yes, sometimes even more so. That's the psychology of the character, where you're trying to pick Ruby apart or set her up so you can make your chess move. I really enjoyed working with Genevieve Cortese, who's a great actress, and we had a really good time doing that scene.

Alastair came off as a silver-tongued devil with a real gift for words, too.
That's the thing that brought me to that voice. I was reading this stuff and there were a lot of "s" sounds. I was just playing with it one day before the audition and I thought I could really make something of that. The dialogue was great, with a lot of witty comebacks. There were moments on set when I got to improvise a bit, although

they didn't keep it in the final cut. Trust me, it gave me the ability to expand the character and grow around that dialogue. There's quite a bit of levity to Alastair that I liked. He's so bad that I didn't have to take everything so seriously. Alastair's not afraid of anybody, so that element of being able to toy with people certainly came across in the delivery as well.

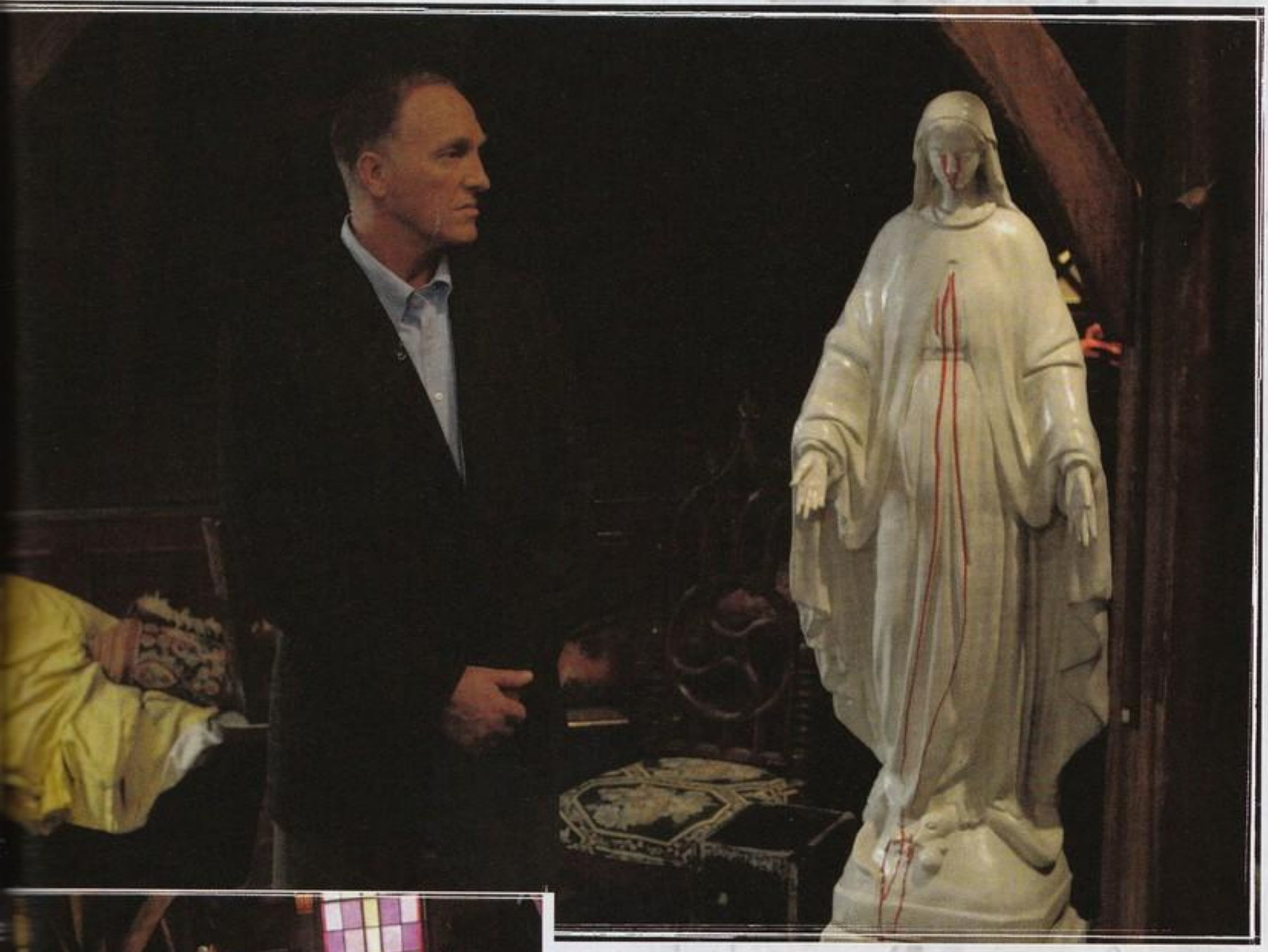
There was a lot of hype surrounding the *Heaven And Hell* episode. What were your thoughts on that showdown between the angels and demons?

Not being familiar with the show, I thought it was a great ending. I liked the juxtaposition of Castiel and Uriel. There was that romantic element there, too, with Anna being caught between two worlds. You have the good demons, the bad demons, but then there are the good angels and bad angels. There's the emotional tension across worlds, which is really cool. It makes it more complex, so it's not just good versus evil.

"THERE'S QUITE A BIT OF LEVITY TO ALASTAIR THAT I LIKED. HE'S SO BAD THAT I DIDN'T HAVE TO TAKE EVERYTHING SO SERIOUSLY."

With Jared and Jensen being so tall and solid, is it tricky coming off threatening or imposing?

When I first got on set and saw Jared – he's huge! I did think of that for a moment, but I'm a seasoned enough actor, and I have some presence and weight. What you do as an actor is not push it. You have to stay focused, keep grounded, and let the camera come to you. If you try to compensate that Jared could probably kick the crap out of me, you're going to look weak. They *are* big dudes, though.



***Supernatural* is known for its very relaxed on-set atmosphere.**
They're extremely hard-working. I haven't done this in quite a while, where you have numerous night shoots and get home at 4AM. It's hard work, but they're committed to making it great, and it's a plus when they are really getting down in the trenches. They're really present, and there is a lot of good humor on the set. We immediately connected. In fact, Jensen and I hoped the weather would break so we could go golfing!

In addition to *Supernatural*, your recent credits in *Asylum* and *Saw V* suggest that you're a fan of the horror genre.
I had an incredible time doing *Asylum* because I got to play this apparition/doctor demon. It was great fun doing the prosthetic makeup. For *Saw V*, which I signed on for three of [the movies], I had a marathon of watching them. A lot of our audience will watch every single movie and know all the details. With the way they structure the plot of *Saw*, the challenge now is to come up with yet another twist and something really spectacular to keep everyone coming back. I'm not necessarily a fan of the genre, of fantasy or angels and demons, but once I watched *Supernatural*, it was a lot of fun. The same with the *Saw* movies. *Saw V* really moved, was fast paced, and kept you on the edge of your seat with the requisite gore.

With so many memorable roles under your belt, what are you recognized for most?
Mostly, it's for *The Shawshank Redemption*, but I know they're real fans when they mention *Aliens*. I was in New York recently doing a signing for *Saw V*, and there was this woman who created a Facebook site for me. She said that she loved my work in *A Sinful Life*, which is a movie where I played a transvestite, and I was like "Oh my God! You're a real fan if you've seen that!" Generally, I'm known for *Shawshank*, though.

In your eyes, was Alastair vanquished too easily?
He's not defeated. I didn't get that [sense of defeat] from the moment where I blinked out. In the moment I was going after Anna, we were simply transported away. I don't think you can defeat a guy like Alastair. You'd need something bigger to get rid of him!

KATHERINE BOECHER INTERVIEW

LILITH

Words: Nicholas Knight

She was the first demon, and also the last of the 66 Seals that were broken to raise Lucifer from the pit. As Sam and Dean face up to the Apocalypse, *The Official Supernatural Magazine* got to talk to Lilith herself, actress KATHERINE BOECHER...

The Official Supernatural Magazine had the pleasure of being on set to witness Katherine Boecher filming her character Lilith's death scene for *Lucifer Rising*. In between takes we ate pakoras off a trolley that the caterer had wheeled up to the area known as video village (where the director, other crew members – and the occasional wide-eyed journalist – sit behind a row of monitors to watch the camera feeds). After the episode wrapped, we caught up with Boecher again by telephone.

***The Official Supernatural Magazine*: We'll never forget the time we got to eat pakoras with Lilith! Do you normally like spicy food?**
Katherine Boecher: I do. I'm from Texas! Yeah, another Texan on the *Supernatural* set! Tex-Mex food and spiciness is an obsession of mine.

What was it like working with those two Texan boys, Jensen Ackles and Jared Padalecki?
There's something about being from Texas where when you see other people from Texas there's kind of an automatic bond that happens, and it's just like, "Oh, you're from there too? Okay, you're cool." So, yeah, it was really great to see some other Texans on set. Jared and Jensen are both so down-to-earth, it was really nice to work with them.

Along with being down-to-earth, the boys are well-known for being pranksters, so did you fall victim to any practical jokes?
I was not part of any pranks... that I know of. But it was hilarious working with them. There was a lot of laughter the whole time that I was on set.

Had you watched *Supernatural* prior to being on it?
I had, yes. It's funny, because I grew up on horror movies. I have an older brother and he kind of forced me to watch horror

movies when I was a kid, so I've always watched stuff like that. Now that I'm older, I like "B" horror movies a lot and I like hokey horror movies that I can still turn off the lights and go to sleep at night after I watch them. *Supernatural*, though, is really scary, so the first time I watched it, I was like, "Oh my..." I was really freaked out. Now that I've gotten really into it and all the characters, I can actually sleep with the lights off again!

You obviously enjoy watching horror, but you've also had parts in several genre titles, going back to one of your earliest roles in *Scream at the Sound of the Beep*. Do you seek out these kinds of acting jobs, or is it just a coincidence that your career's gone this way?

It's definitely something I have fun doing, but in terms of directing my career to only go this route, I certainly want to do as many diverse roles as I possibly can, and I want to experience as many different characters as I can, so I'm not necessarily trying to only do this. But it's so neat to do stuff where there are supernatural things going on.

Except for a brief stint in demon Ruby's body, as portrayed by Katie Cassidy, Lilith had always inhabited the bodies of little girls before. Did you try to maintain some of that childlike quality?

I did, and I was glad that I had the chance to develop that more, and to bring out more sides of Lilith. You can't do it all in one scene, so it was awesome to be called back for another episode because I got the chance to actually bring out all the different parts of Lilith.

Up until now, the demon Lilith has never been in the same body twice (not counting Dean's hallucination in *Yellow Fever*, which was the same Lilith from *No Rest for the Wicked*). When you were hired for *The Monster at the End of This Book*, did you know you'd be coming back for the season finale?

Jared was actually joking with me [on the set of *The Monster at the End of This Book*] that they never really bring Lilith's girls back, other than Ruby, so I was pretty sure that that was it, that it was like, "Hi Canada, bye Canada, I'm done." So it was really surprising when I got the call, and I was very excited to come back.

When it looked like it could potentially be a recurring role, were you upset that they killed your character off?

You know, I gotta say, there's a little part of an actor that's all, "Aww, man, I'm dying." But the story was so good that it really didn't leave any choice – she *had* to go – so I think it was definitely worth it. It was fun to play getting offed as a demon. A *lot* of fun!

Your death played a very important part in the climatic twist of the season – when Lilith died, the final seal was broken, freeing Lucifer from the pit. Since you're really into the show, what do you think is going to happen now that Lucifer is actually rising, bringing Hell on Earth?

I think it's crazy! I think it's absolutely crazy! I have no idea what they're going to do now that he's actually risen. I'm hooked and I want to see the next season because how are the brothers going to battle him? It's going to be really cool to see how Eric fashions this one.

You worked with two different *Supernatural* directors – Mike Rohl and Eric Kripke. How did their directing styles differ?

They're different in their directing styles, definitely, but both of them are

"IT WAS AWESOME TO BE CALLED BACK FOR ANOTHER EPISODE BECAUSE I GOT THE CHANCE TO ACTUALLY BRING OUT ALL THE PARTS OF LILITH."

Photo courtesy of Matt Sherman Management

"NOW THAT I'VE GOTTEN REALLY INTO IT AND ALL THE CHARACTERS, I CAN ACTUALLY SLEEP WITH THE LIGHTS OFF AGAIN!"

wonderful. Mike would let me do my own thing and then he'd give me a little pointer here or there, or come and talk to me a little bit. He really allowed me to do whatever I wanted with the role, which was really cool.

With Kripke being the show's creator, did you find that he had a very specific idea in mind for every scene?
He did, yes! He was extremely specific about exactly what he wanted for each scene. It was interesting having my own ideas of what I wanted to bring to this episode and then coming and having the creator, the person who knows everything about the show, explain what to go with. It was amazing. Eric was incredibly down-to-earth, he laughed a lot, and he was always telling me stories about how he got into the business; about horror movies, and quotes from old horror movie icons; and about making this kind of genre and what it's like. I really learned a lot from him. I felt like I was in college!

Do you have a favorite line from your episodes?
I really enjoyed saying Ruby's line off the set. She had that line, "You have to admit, I'm awesome," and I just could not stop saying it, over and over, it was so funny. But all my lines were fabulous – works of art!

When you were filming your death scene and you were rolling off that step, was it difficult to make your movements look lifeless? Did you ever bang your head too hard?
No, I didn't go home with a concussion, thank God! It takes a lot of focus to do nothing. It's like, "Don't let your eyes move at all. Keep your pupils in the center of your eyes." It takes *a lot* of focus.

What was it like lying in a pool of fake blood all day?
It was a *long* day!

Do you have any behind-the-scenes stories to share with the fans?
It was really cool being on set with Genevieve Cortese. We talked a little bit about everything. She's had a lot of experience playing a demon. She said it's been a really great learning experience for her doing *Supernatural*. We talked lots about the end of our two characters and being offed. She brought her dog to set; a little brown and white dog. I can't remember the name of it, but it's really cute. They all bring their dogs to set, so there's a gang of dogs roaming around keeping everyone happy in the wee hours of the morning.

In your credits, you often use the screen name Pippi. How'd that come about? And why do you switch back and forth between Katherine and Pippi?
I used to look like Pippi Longstocking when I was a little girl, so it was my nickname from way back in the day, and I kind of stuck with it until about eight years ago. Everybody called me Pippi and people remembered it; it was a good name. And it's because people are so used to calling me Pippi that they still credit me that way. It's hard to change. I've been going by my given name, Katherine, for eight years already now, and I walk into a casting room and they're still like, "Hey, Pippi, how ya doing?"

Are there any upcoming projects you're in that you'd like the *Supernatural* fans to check out?
I did a film with Jackie Chan [that's coming out January 2010] where I got to play a Russian spy, so it was a very different kind of role from Lilith. It's a comedy and it's really funny, so keep a lookout for that! It's called *The Spy Next Door*.

That sounds awesome! Did you get to fight Jackie Chan?
I did, actually. I did a fight scene with Jackie Chan! It was intimidating, but really cool.

Have you received much fan feedback for your portrayal of Lilith?
I talked to my brother about it after I filmed the first episode because he is way into *Supernatural* and the horror genre, and he was like, "I don't know... You might be disappointed. These fans are really intense and they might not like you." I was so scared for days! But it seems to me that so far it's okay...

In closing, is there anything else you'd like to share about your experience working on two episodes of *Supernatural*?
The fans are so wonderful and everyone involved with the whole show is such a family, so I just want to say thank you to them for letting me be a part of this experience and this family.

SHE-DEVIL

Words: Nicholas Knight

You just can't keep a good demon down. After being forcibly evicted from her original host and a brief sojourn in Sam's body, the demonic Meg Masters returned to plague the Winchesters in *Sympathy For the Devil* in a whole new "meat suit." We talked to actress RACHEL MINER about playing the new-look Meg...

Meg Masters, the demon who loves to hear the sound of her own voice, is back, and it's not a moment too soon for *Supernatural* fans, who have been wondering what the feisty demon's been up to since season two. Originally inhabiting the body of actress Nicki Aycox, the demon is now embodied by Rachel Miner, who shared her thoughts on the fun role with *The Official Supernatural Magazine*...

***The Official Supernatural Magazine*: Rumor has it that you've been acting since birth. That sounds spooky – care to elaborate?**

Rachel Miner: *Well*, I've wanted to act since I was about two years old because I grew up around it. My father [Emmy-winning director Peter Miner] directed television, so it was familiar to me, and I also love movies, plain and simple. I remember seeing *Alice in Wonderland* and wanting to go live in Wonderland, so I think that sparked some of it. I've always had a very vivid imagination – I could copy people I saw in the movie and wonder what it was like to be them.

You've been in a few horror films, such as *Penny Dreadful*, *Cult*, and *Hide*. Are you a fan of the genre?

To be honest, I'm more of a fan of old horror. I was working with my mom [writer and Off-Off-Broadway director Diane Miner] and she showed me some of it as a young girl, like *The Curse of the Cat People* and *The Shining*. Going back to some of the classics, I have to say that I really love that it's not as much about the gore, that it's more about what you *don't* see. I think *Supernatural* hits on that. When they have the scary stuff it's more about the psychological, and it's often a throwback to some of those classics. I do love this genre, and it's a lot of fun to get to play in it.

In your episode of *Fear Itself*, 'The Sacrifice', you played another supernatural creature, a vampire. Did that help you prepare for playing a demon on *Supernatural*?

Yeah, I guess it did. But also, I'm a big geek. I love fantasy, I read a lot, and I love history. I think *Supernatural* does a good job of drawing from a lot of folklore and myths and religious beliefs and all of that. I love reading [the mythologist and writer] Joseph Campbell and watching documentaries on myths' origins and beliefs, and I think all that really helped, because they stay true to that stuff on *Supernatural*.

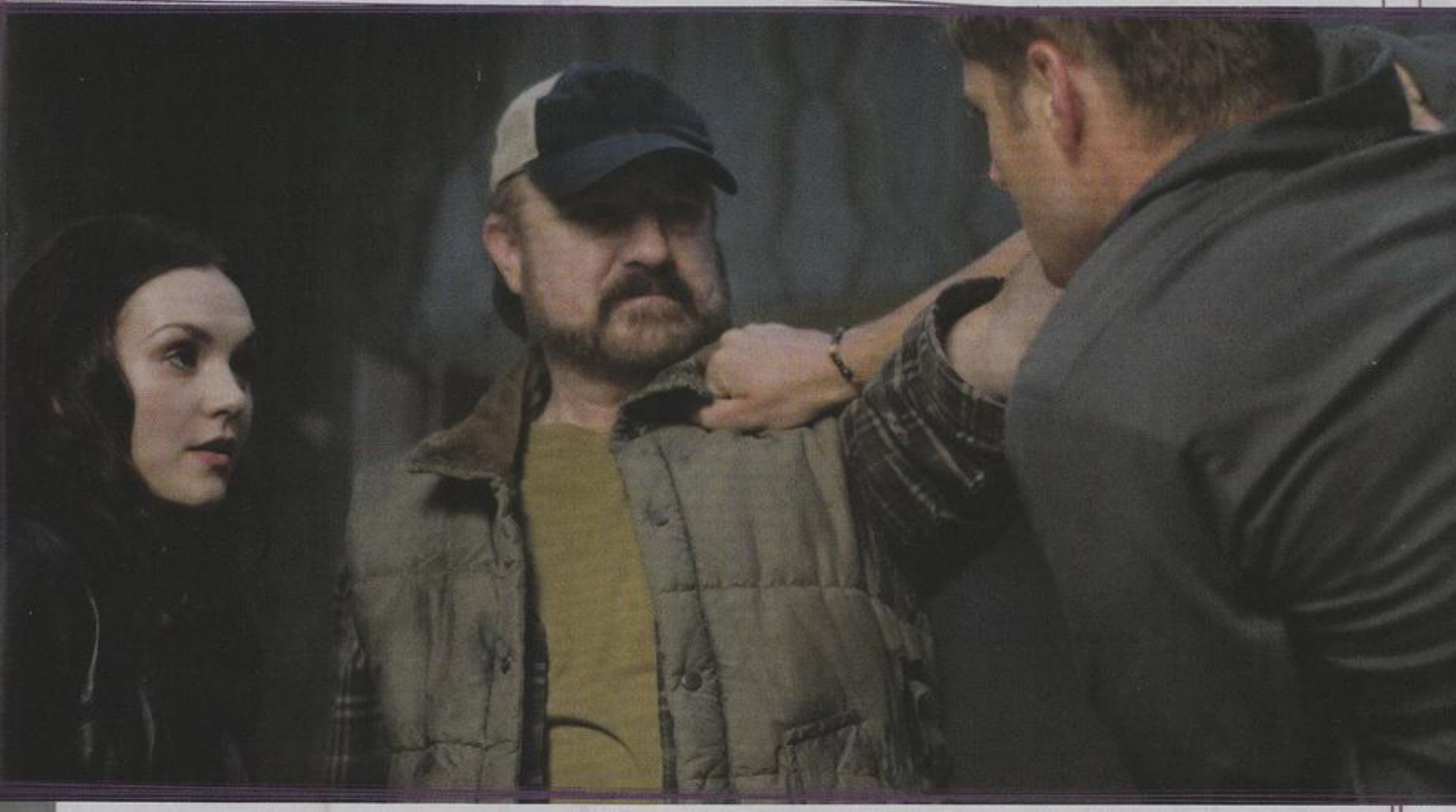
Had you watched *Supernatural* prior to being on it?
I hadn't, actually, because mostly I don't watch a lot of TV. As I said, I read a lot. I'm a dork! I read a lot and I watch a lot of documentaries, *but* I've now been watching *Supernatural* from the beginning and catching up on it. I'm really enjoying it.

I have to say that what I've really enjoyed while catching up on the show is the unique balance on this show between humour and fantasy and reality, and keeping it somewhat grounded in the real, but always having that sense of play. I think that's one of the most fun things about this show.

Meg is a really popular character with *Supernatural*'s fan base, so the producers were undoubtedly looking for someone special to fill the role. How did you land this coveted part?
It was just a regular audition. I remember that I went in and Eric Kripke was in the room and was really, really nice. That stuck out, because it's not always that way.

"MY INSTINCTS WITH THE CHARACTER WERE VERY SIMILAR TO WHAT BOTH JARED AND NICKI HAD DONE BEFORE."

Creator Eric Kripke also wrote the screenplay for your first episode, *Sympathy For the Devil*. Since you'd never watched the show, what were your first impressions upon reading the script?
What struck me from the moment I read the audition sides was that this was a really well-written, fun character with really great dialogue. So from the audition on I enjoyed every minute



of working on the show for those reasons.

Setting aside for a moment what was in the script, describe the character Meg and her personality in your own words.
One of the things that informed Meg most for me was that she has lived for thousands and thousands of years. I don't think that can really be lost. She's obviously evil, she obviously does not like the boys and they've given her a hard time, so she plays with them. But I think that perspective of time and the amount of time she's been around probably plays in to it, whereas if you or I if were pissed off it would be so immediate. Meg's experienced so much life – or unlife – as a demon that there's a little bit more of relaxation and cat-and-mouse kind of fun to it all for her, because when you're out of Hell, which is not pleasant, and you get to be on Earth, you want to have as much fun as possible.

"MEG'S EXPERIENCED SO MUCH LIFE – OR UNLIFE – AS A DEMON THAT THERE'S A LITTLE BIT MORE CAT-AND-MOUSE KIND OF FUN TO IT ALL FOR HER..."

Did you watch Nicki Aycox's performances of Meg to get a feel for the character?
When I first got the role, it was pretty quick [to start filming the episode], so I hadn't gotten to see much of her work. I watched some clips, though, and I really enjoyed her work. It was an interesting balance, because I didn't want to copy another actress' work – that wouldn't be very good. On the other hand, I wanted to make sure that I wasn't too far off from it, because that wouldn't make sense since it's the same demon inhabiting a different body.

Likewise, did you get a chance to watch some clips of Jared Padalecki's turn as Sam being possessed by Meg in *Born Under a Bad Sign*?
I've seen it since then, but I hadn't at the time.

You mentioned balancing Nicki's performance with your own – what do you feel you brought to the character? In other words, how did you make this character your own?
What was interesting, which I think is a testament to the writing, is that my instincts with the character were very similar to what both Jared and Nicki had done before. I just kind of lucked out in that my performance wasn't too far off with the choices I made.

Since demons don't usually go back to the same body after they've left it on *Supernatural*, are you worried that they won't bring you back to play Meg again?
I have my fingers crossed that I'll

return. It's their mythology, so I figure they can do whatever they want. And they have hinted at my coming back, so we'll see.

With Meg being such a fan-favorite character, what has the response been like for your portrayal of Meg?
I did take to heart that the character meant so much to people. I didn't realize it when I auditioned, but I found out soon after. I certainly understand that if you've been with the show for a long time and you know the characters intimately, it's always hard to see another actor coming in. That became something I took into consideration because I didn't want to disappoint people by taking away from what was originally there. But I think the fan response has been pretty positive. I really hope they're happy with it.

Fans can be scary sometimes, but demons are much scarier! Do you believe there are real demons out there?
Real *demons*? I don't know. I know there are some evil people, for sure. I think that there is truth to the fact that we always have a choice between our better side and our worse side, and I really like how on *Supernatural* they touch on the fact that the demons manipulate that. But personally, I haven't experienced any demons; I like to see things with my own eyes. I haven't run into anyone whose choices were being manipulated by a demon!

So no one on the set of *Supernatural* were acting as if they were being manipulated by a demon?
No, there were no bad eggs. Everyone was really cool. Jared and Jensen are gentlemen; they're really super nice. And the director, Robert Singer, and everyone on the crew were wonderful. It really was the nicest set I've ever worked on. And I love Vancouver – it's a beautiful, beautiful city.

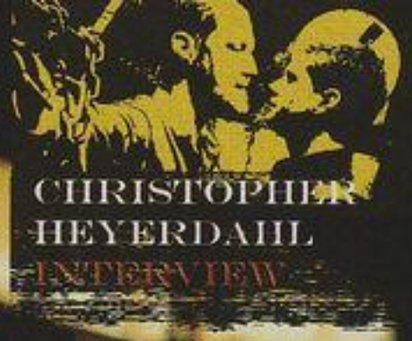
You got to kick Jared Padalecki's ass in *Sympathy For the Devil*. Was that fun?
That was probably one of the most fun things about working on that episode! I actually love doing stunts and fights. The fight choreographer, Lou Bollo, is a wonderful man. He's a lot of fun to work with, so I had a really good time with that. And it did wonders for my ego getting to take on two very strong, very-much-larger-than-me boys.

Was your kiss with Jensen Ackles the most un-romantic kiss you've ever had to do? (Because Dean was *so* not into it.)
You know, I hate to disappoint because I know when you're watching a show it's wonderful to get caught up in things, but onscreen kisses are usually not romantic. It's technical, so there's not a lot of romance involved.

What was your favorite scene from *Sympathy For the Devil*?
There were a lot that I loved. I was really excited watching it. When it comes to some of the things that I got to do, I really loved all the dialogue, but in terms of the overall show I thought the Becky character was hilarious. I really enjoyed her scenes. And I thought Mark Pellegrino as Nick was really powerful. There were a lot of really great moments in that episode.

You mentioned that you loved all your dialogue. Do you have a favorite line from *Sympathy For the Devil*?
One of my favorite lines was, 'Not so easy without those super special demon powers,' which was really fun. But I loved every little moment. I also just loved coming into the room and saying, 'I always knew you were a big, dumb, slow, *dim* pain in the ass, Dean.' That line was so much fun to say!

"IT DID WONDERS FOR MY EGO GETTING TO TAKE ON TWO VERY STRONG, VERY-MUCH-LARGER-THAN-ME BOYS."



CHRISTOPHER
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INTERVIEW

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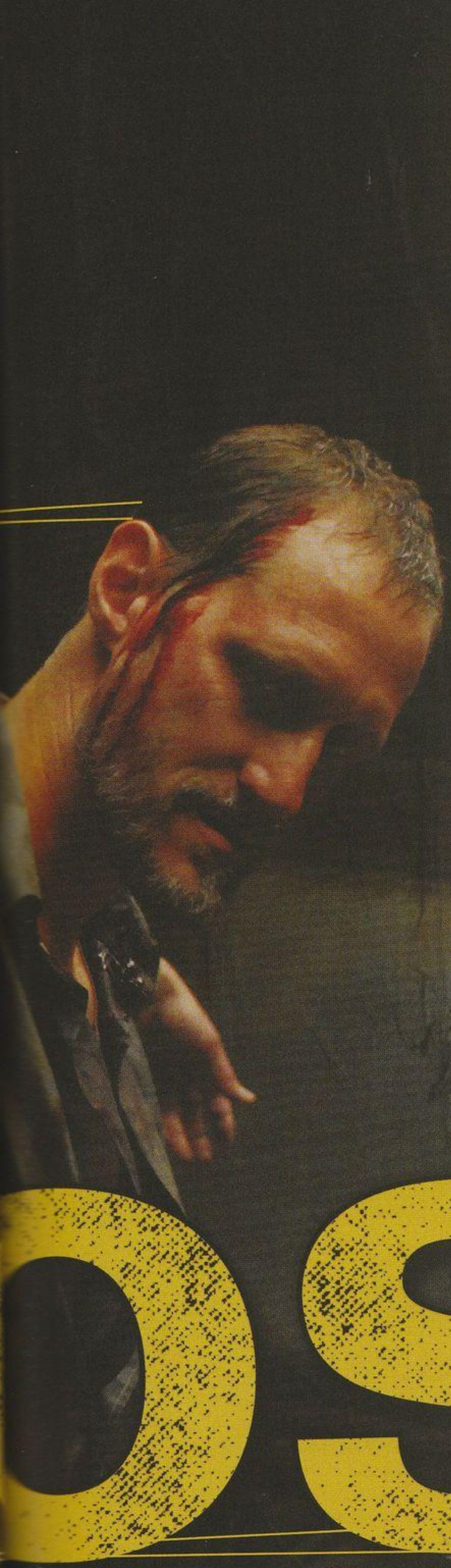


Playing the second "meat-suit" of torturer demon Alastair, actor Christopher Heyerdahl proved Alastair was beyond nasty whatever body he was in. *The Official Supernatural Magazine* spoke to Heyerdahl about getting tortured by Jensen, getting voted Best Villain, and why he thinks Alastair isn't gone for good...

Making his first appearance in *I Know What You Did Last Summer,* Hell's grand demon inquisitor Alastair proved to be an instant hit with *Supernatural* fans. So much so, in fact, that the character was recently voted Best Villain by *The Official Supernatural Magazine* readers in an online poll, and now Best Demon/Monster/Ghost in our Readers' Awards.

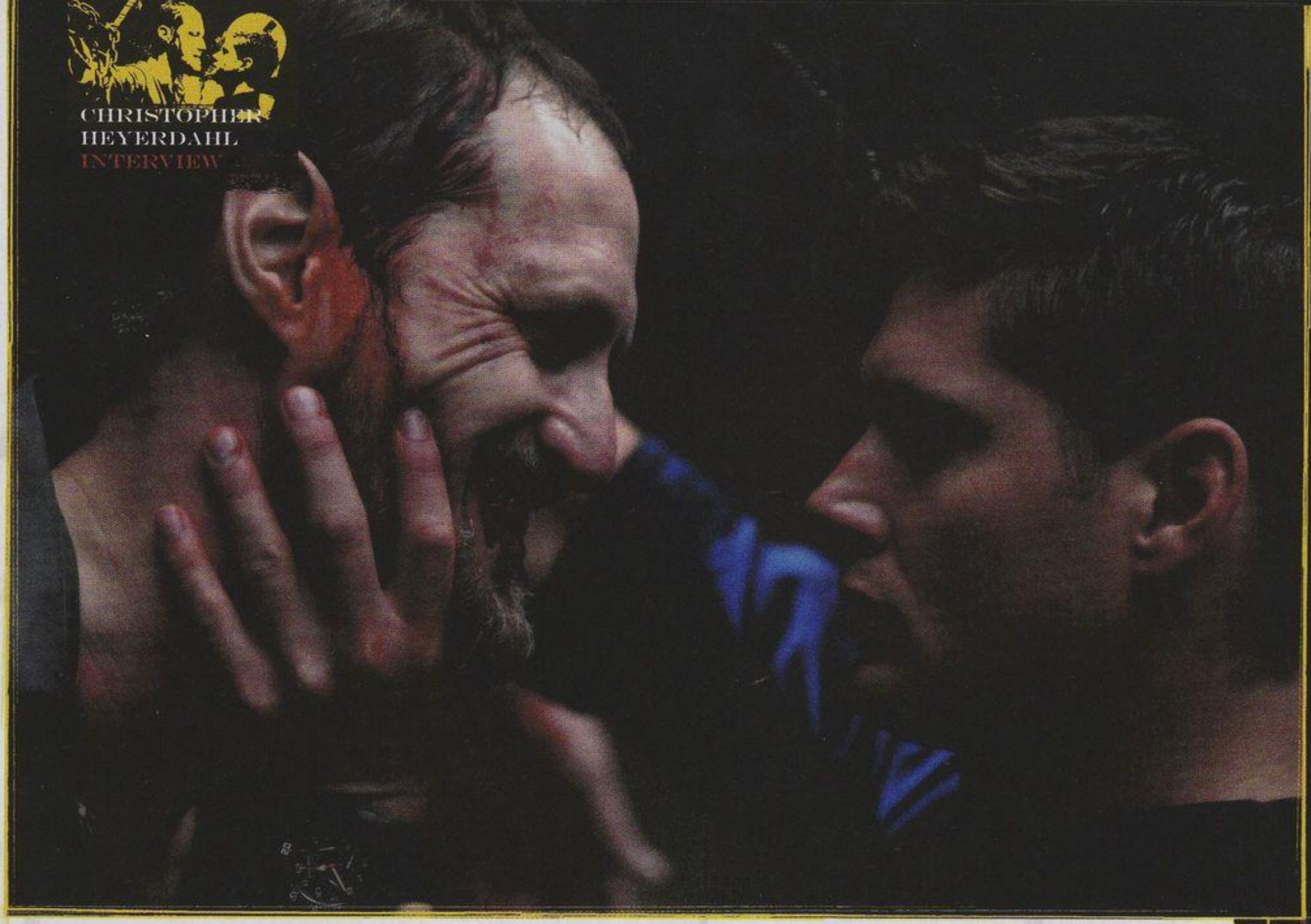
Mark Rolston was the first actor to play the role, but when Alastair moved on to a new "meat-suit," it was genre favorite Christopher Heyerdahl who took on the role, just in time for Alastair to be tortured by his former victim, Dean Winchester.

After playing everything from an alien Wraith on *Stargate Atlantis* to a time travelling serial killer and Bigfoot on *Sanctuary*, to Clark Kent's scheming uncle Zor-El on *Smallville*, Heyerdahl was ideally suited to play the nastiest demon Sam and Dean had yet encountered. We caught up with Heyerdahl to find out about playing this villain of villains...

OSS

Words: Kate Lloyd

CHRISTOPHER HEYERDAHL INTERVIEW



"I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY 'GOOD GUY' IN ALASTAIR, BUT THAT'S WHAT ALSO MAKES HIM SO MUCH FUN."

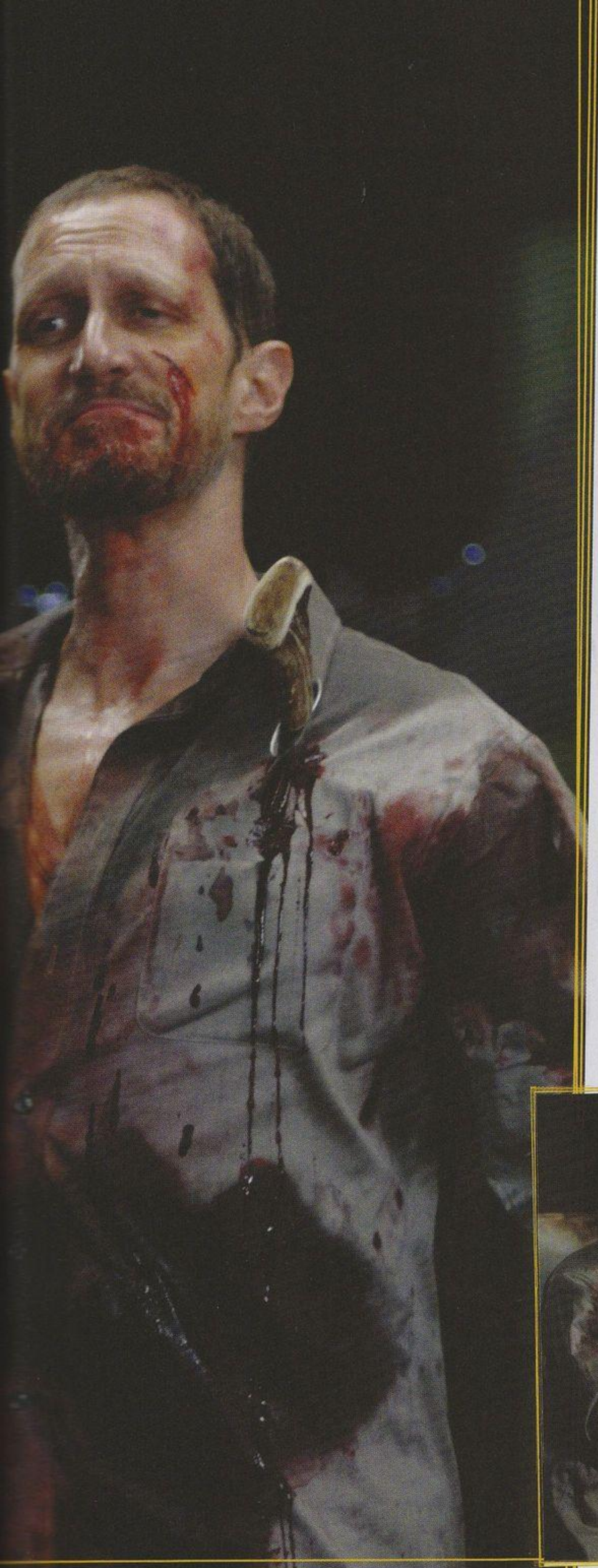
***The Official Supernatural Magazine*: We thought we'd start off by letting you know that Alastair was voted Best *Supernatural* Villain by our readers...**
Christopher Heyerdahl: I take that as an enormous compliment! An enormous compliment. I know how many great villains there have been on the show, so that's fantastic. Thank you!

Did you have to audition for the part of Alastair?
I did. It was in front of a number of folks, actually. Eric Kripke was there, and Steve [Boyum], of course. It was Steve who I was interacting with mostly. He's a very interactive director, and he was a great help in explaining to me the heart – or rather the heartlessness – of Alastair. We had a great time playing it. It was one of those auditions that I left and thought, "I want to work with that guy. That was so much fun!" So many auditions you walk into and it doesn't really leave you feeling one way or the other, but that was one where I just loved the character and I loved the director and everyone was really positive. We had a hell of a time.

When did you decide to play Alastair with the same Southern accent adopted by Mark Rolston when he played him?
Once I was cast I looked at the episodes that Mark had done and I just loved the 'music' that he'd brought to Alastair, and I thought that had to be honored. I was just grinning from ear to ear when I saw the way Mark had portrayed him – I loved it. I thought, "Okay, I want to bring some of that into what I'm doing." So the flavor I brought in was really started by Mark.

Were you aware of the show before you auditioned for the role?
Yeah. It was funny, actually. Just before my audition I was [surfing] YouTube and I came across the video with Jensen doing his 'Eye Of The Tiger.' Seeing that, I thought, "Ah, man, I'd really love to work on that show, that guy looks like a lot of fun!" Literally two days later I got the call and went to the audition!

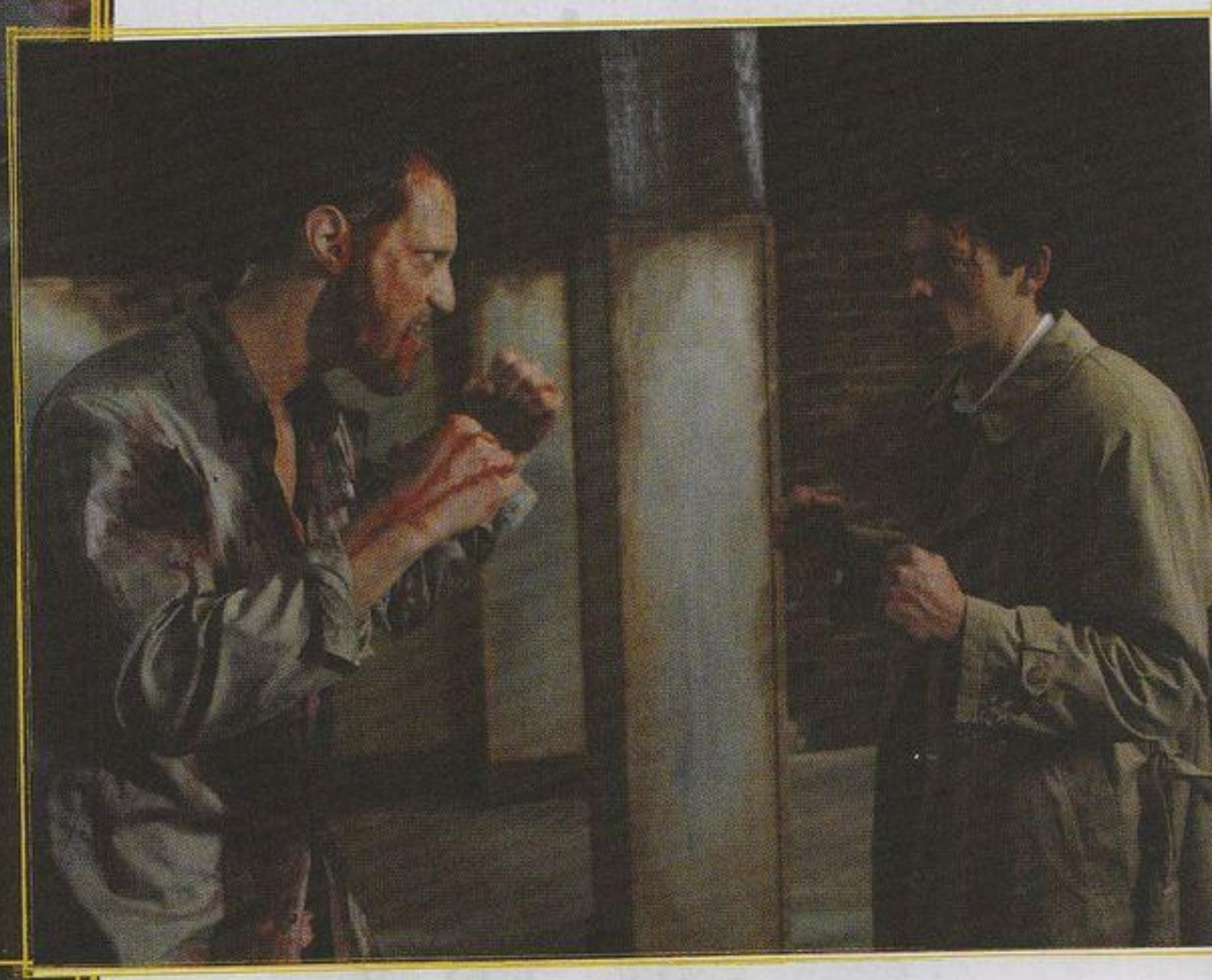
Everyone always says how much of a pleasure Jensen and Jared are to work with. Was that your experience?
They were great. I worked with Jensen most of the time, while Jared really bookended my episodes. Jensen is an incredibly generous actor. As a regular on a TV show, you have people coming in every week, and some you must click with and some you don't – that's just human interaction, right? But I felt very welcomed by Jensen – he was very open to working together on scenes. Both of us were throwing suggestions out there and it was a lot of fun. He's a very vulnerable, open actor. I had a great time with Jared as well. I thought I did a good job of looking at his "Diana Ross hand" and faking the pain. [*Laughs*]



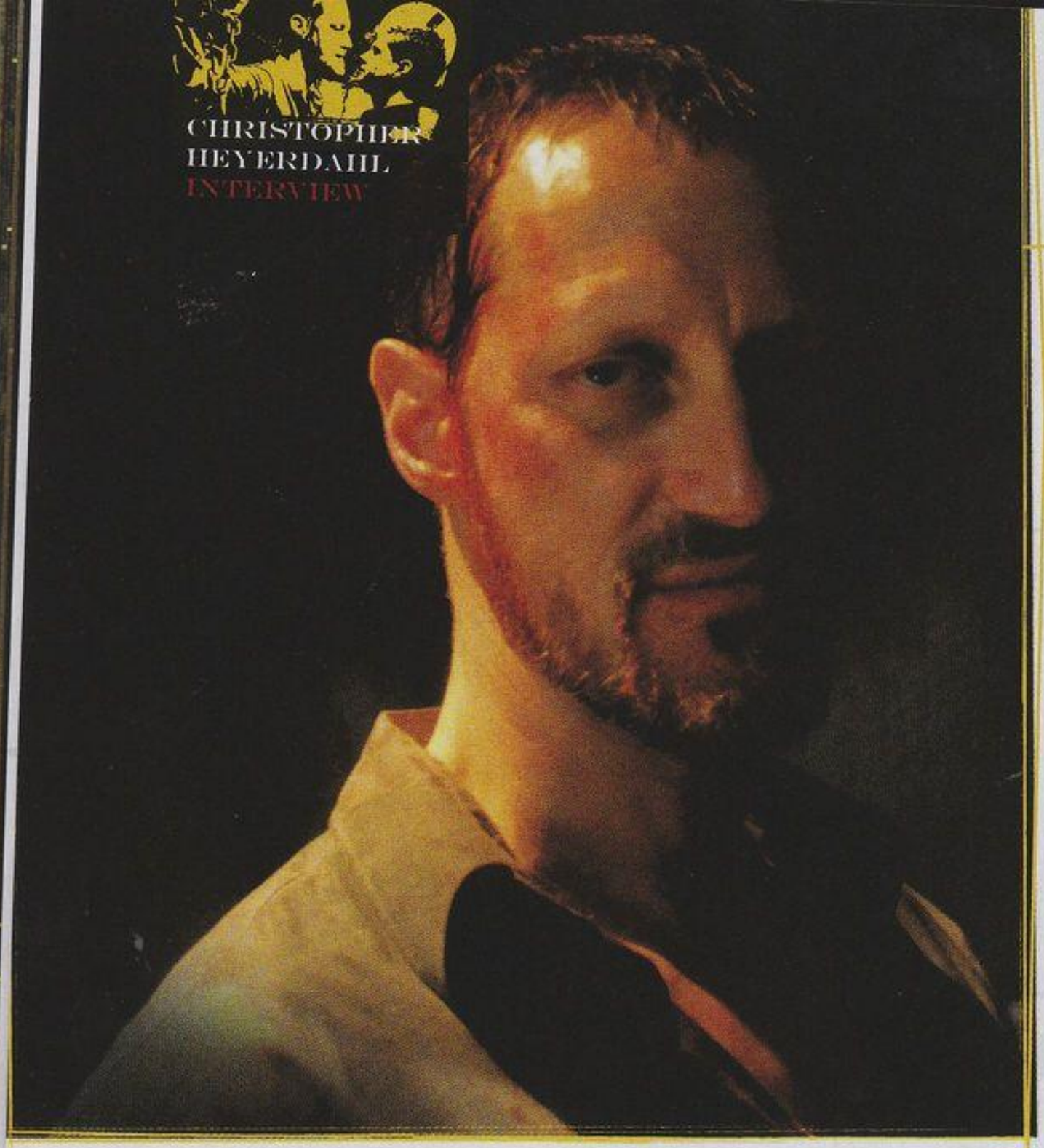
You had quite a few standout scenes, but the one that really sticks in the memory is Dean's prolonged torture of Alastair. How was that to film?
Those particular scenes took about three or four days to film, and I was trussed up almost the entire time. There's not a lot of preparation you can do for that kind of thing – you just dive in headfirst. That's the way both of us approached it. We talked a little bit about the architecture of the scene and where we wanted to go with it; how soon we'd like to get there, and then we just started playing. As gruelling as it was, it was also a hell of a lot of fun, and I'd just like to say what a great honor it was to be tortured by Jensen. I wonder how many people would have liked to trade places with me? [*Laughs*]

The main arc of the show both last year and this year has been based on the *Book Of Revelation*; the End Times, the Apocalypse, Lucifer's fall, etc. Knowing this, did you do any extra research before heading to Vancouver for the shoot, or did you just stick to what was in the script?
I kept it with the script, but knowing what's going on in a scene and the mythos behind it is also absolutely necessary, so I certainly did my research too. There's no point in walking into these things without knowing exactly what's going on and what exactly the characters are talking about. It's too huge [not to do] that.

Over the course of your career you've worked on *Masters of Horror*, *Sanctuary*, *Smallville*, *Stargate* and now *Supernatural* to name but a few. Are you a fan of the sci-fi and horror genres, or is that just the way things have worked out?
Both are true. It is the way things have worked out, but they're also things that I like to watch. Horror's not really my thing, but certainly fantasy and sci-fi. Those things I absolutely adore. It's something I definitely find myself watching when I'm wanting to delve into my fantasy world,



CHRISTOPHER HEYERDAHL INTERVIEW



"I JUST LOVED THE 'MUSIC' THAT MARK ROLSTON HAD BROUGHT TO ALASTAIR, AND I THOUGHT THAT HAD TO BE HONORED."

or escape a little bit from the harsh realties of life. That's definitely where I go to play. That's my downtime. I love that kind of stuff.

You also seem to relish bad guy roles such as Alastair…
I have to admit I do. I think that bad guys tend to be far more interesting. That being said, most good guy roles out there are pretty paper thin, and so are most of the bad guys. But when you find the bad guy roles that are three-dimensional and there's a struggle going on internally and there's something interesting happening, there's nothing better. So I will have to say, yeah, I'm pretty much down with the bad guy, as long as he's got a little bit of good guy somewhere. Although with Alastair, I'll completely contradict myself and say that I don't think there's any 'good guy' in him. But that's what also makes him so much fun. He just unabashedly loves creating havoc and pain and thinks it's the greatest thing.

You've been in this industry for 20 years and have played a vast array of characters. Is there any one role that particularly stands out for you?
There are a bunch of roles that stand out for me. H.P. Lovecraft is a character that I absolutely adored playing [in the TV movie *Out of Mind: The Stories of H.P. Lovecraft*]. I always felt that somehow HP was at my back every day that we were shooting and that he'd crawled into my "meat suit" and expressed himself. That same year, I played Charles Dickens as well [in *The Ghosts of Dickens' Past*], and that was a great role. Those are two of my favorite

parts that I look back on whenever anybody asks me that. I always think of them.

Next up for you is the new *Twilight* movie, *New Moon*. What can you tell us about your character Marcus?
Where can I start? Marcus is a 3,000-year-old vampire; I think of him as the oldest vampire of the lot. He's the one vampire, certainly of the Volturi, who has known love and lost it.

Having worked on the likes of *Smallville*, *Stargate*, and *Supernatural*, of course, you're obviously used to passionate, devoted fans. The *Twilight* fans are supposed to be something else again, though. Are you ready for them?
Well, I'll see. [*Laughs*] I've met a couple of *Twilight* fans and I certainly have a number of *Twilight* fans in my immediate family and *Twilight* fans in my extended family and friends, so I certainly know the passion that's behind a fan base like this.

How about *Supernatural* fan conventions? Can we expect to see you at one soon?
I'd love to. It just hasn't come up yet. With these things one needs to be asked, and I haven't been asked yet. When one comes up and the timing is right, I'd be all over it. I'd be ecstatic to go.

Going back to *Supernatural* itself, we've been wracking our brains as to how the writers can bring Alastair back. But after his 'death by Sam,' it's not looking good is it?
[*Laughs*] Well, as everyone says on *Supernatural*, you never know. There are no rules and they can pretty much do anything, so who knows? As I said, maybe Jared's "Diana Ross hand" didn't have as much power as he – and we – all thought. As far as I'm concerned, it didn't, but that's a secret.

MARK
SHEPPARD
INTERVIEW

DEAL or NO DEAL

Words: Nicholas Knight

MARK SHEPPARD INTERVIEW

If you watch any television shows outside of *Supernatural*, chances are you already knew who Mark Sheppard was before his *Supernatural* debut, from his roles in series like *Battlestar Galactica*, *Dollhouse*, *Leverage*, *24*, and *Warehouse 13*.

Whatever character he's playing, the talented actor always gives a memorable performance, and his entrance into the world of *Supernatural* in *Abandon All Hope* was indeed a scene fans won't soon forget. Sheppard shared his thoughts with us on the pivotal role of the Crossroads Demon known as Crowley...

***The Official Supernatural Magazine*: What was it that drew you to acting in the first place?**

Mark Sheppard: My father [William Morgan Sheppard] is an actor, and I grew up around the idea that acting was just an intrinsic part of our storytelling culture. We have an Irish background in our family, and that culture is a culture of self-perpetuation through storytelling. I've been a musician most of my life, and I don't find much difference between music and acting as far as the actual storytelling. It's just something I like to do. I think telling a story is one of the greatest forms of entertainment.

From early on in your career, with your fiery appearance on *The X-Files*, you've done a lot of fantasy and science fiction genre shows. Is that a coincidence, or are you a fan of the genre?

I've always been a fan of sci-fi because it speaks to the imagination. It's the examination of history translated into possibilities for the future, which I think is very grabbing as a story. Fantasy is fantasy – it's one of the greatest aspects of storytelling. I've been very lucky to be involved with some rather extraordinary storytelling in the sci-fi genre.

With being on all those great genre shows, your talent must be renowned throughout the industry, so did you still have to audition for the role of Crowley, or did they just call you up and offer you the job?

It's an interesting thing. I knew Kim Manners very well over the years. We did *M.A.N.T.I.S.* together. I've spent a lot of time in Vancouver because of the other shows that I've done, and we'd always be in a bar just talking, and he was always telling me about how much fun *Supernatural* was and just how much fun it was to actually do the show. And I could see how excited and happy he was to be a part of that. We were always talking about the possibility of getting Eric Kripke and the others to get me on the show. An opportunity arose and I was willing to come in and audition for the role. It wasn't written for me, but it was something I was willing to audition for. I read it and liked it and said, "Absolutely! I'll go in and do it." Reading the teaser I was like, "Well, *that's* the way to make an entrance! If it starts this way, it's going to be a very interesting episode." With Mark Pellegrino as Lucifer, you've got a very strong actor in that role, and anybody that goes up against him is gonna have an awful lot of fun. So I jumped at the opportunity. I was nicely surprised at just how fun it was for me. It's nice to go to work in that manner and have people who really want to do the best that they can. I was a little sad that I didn't get to do it during Kim's time, but very reverential of

that. It made me think about him a lot. His impact was definitely felt.

Did you watch *Supernatural* before becoming a part of it?

Of course! A lot of my friends have been on the show. I've not been an avid watcher, but I've seen the show in its incarnations over the seasons, and I've always liked it. It's fun. I think the boys are great. They're fascinating to watch. They're very good at what they do, and they make it a lot of fun to work on, which shows in [each episode], because it gives it a great underlying sense of humor. With the jeopardy, the surreal aspects, and the supernatural content itself, the humor is a very large aspect of the show. It's a lot of fun to play with.

Supernatural is in year five now. That's amazing! The show endures for a very specific reason – it's eminently watchable. It's very well-written and it's a lot of fun. I was watching the game show episode [*Changing Channels*] the other night and was laughing my butt off! I couldn't get over the ski boots. It's a wonderful show.

Describe the character Crowley and his personality.

Absolutely not! That's for me to know and for you to find out. I'll talk about Crowley until the cows come home... apart from talking about Crowley. I would never do Crowley the injustice of trying to explain who he is. I mean, can you ever really be sure what a demon's about? But I think he will definitely emerge as his position continues... if, of course, it does continue…

"I WOULD NEVER DO CROWLEY THE INJUSTICE OF TRYING TO EXPLAIN WHO HE IS. I MEAN, CAN YOU EVER REALLY BE SURE WHAT A DEMON'S ABOUT?"

Did you go back and watch any of the past performances of the people playing Crossroads Demons?
I've seen a couple. I won't say who or what, but I've definitely seen a couple. I've done my research and I think it's very fascinating. I made sure I got a look at what was going on recently – where I fit in.

After seeing those past Crossroads Demons, what did you try to bring to your performance to make that particular type of demon your own?
I don't make it my own – it's Crowley! Crowley's Crowley. What Crowley is and what Crowley will become and what Crowley's position is will have to emerge as far as the storytelling's concerned. How I feel about it is almost irrelevant. He's a multilayered, complex character. He might not be what he appears to be...

In *Time is on Our Side*, which is apparently when Bela gave Crowley the gun, Bela said Lilith holds all the contracts for people who sell their souls to the Devil. Lilith was killed at the end of last season, so is Crowley in charge of the crossroads dealings now? Is he reporting directly to Lucifer, or what?
That's an amazingly good question...

But you're not going to answer it?
Absolutely not! If I know, why would I give away what I know, and if I don't know, why would I guess? What excites me is the fact that you realize that there is a lot more to Crowley than meets the eye.

Don't suppose you'll tell us if you're coming back for more episodes?
One would assume that there is far more to Crowley to come. That's one of the interests to me of taking the role; to find out where it's going. All I can say is that you got a very interesting dynamic going on right now with what is happening with Lucifer and what is happening with the boys, and we shall definitely see where that heads.

Assuming we're going to see him again, do you think Crowley will turn other demons against Lucifer?
There is no reason for us to believe that he couldn't. It should be fascinating to see what Crowley does next. I think it's going to unfold in a very interesting manner. Ruby [and the revelation of her true character] was a very clever unfolding. I think the journey was far more interesting than anything else [for that character], so now you understand why I don't want to answer about Crowley's position.

"HE'S A MULTILAYERED, COMPLEX CHARACTER. HE MIGHT NOT BE WHAT HE APPEARS TO BE..."

What was your favorite scene from *Abandon All Hope*?

The intro was certainly a bit of a shocker. It's not often that I get to kiss a man on the crossroads! But it took us a long while to get the scene. I think the actor, Harvey Gold, was very brave in that way. The poor man had to kiss me for many, many hours. It must've been extremely nerve-wracking for him. Harvey was wonderful. I felt for him greatly!

Did director Phil Sgriccia make the kissing scene comfortable for you?

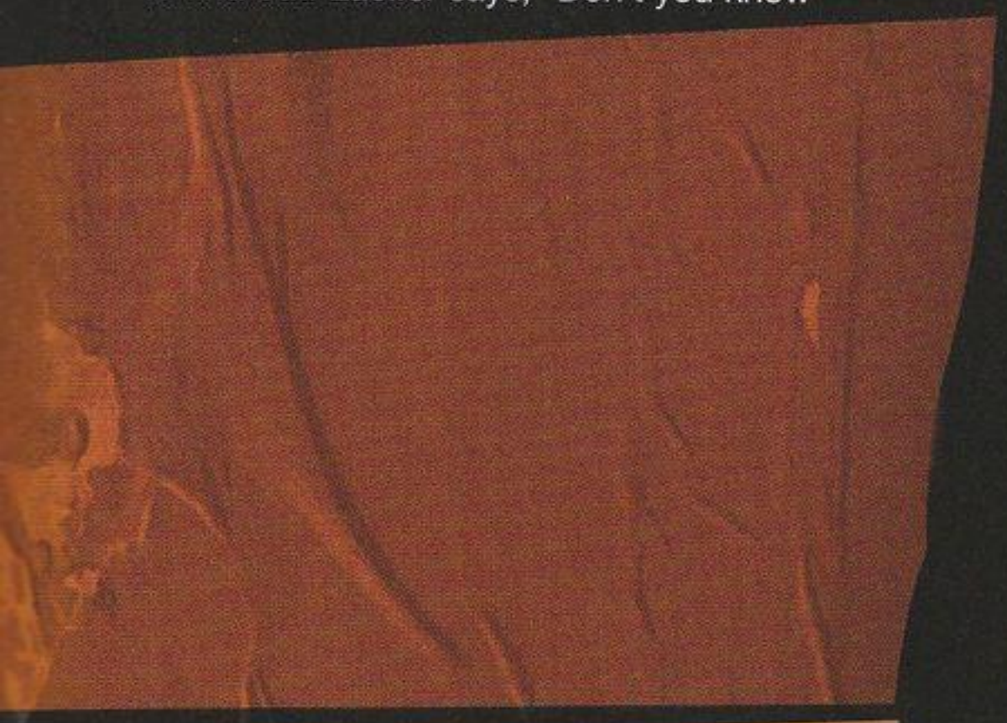
Phil made it as difficult as he possibly could! Phil made sure there were hundreds of takes from hundreds of angles. And it was six hours of kissing the guy, so I got chapped lips... There'll be deep psychological scarring for both of us. And I didn't even get dinner out of it, which makes it worse!

Do you have a favorite line of dialog from *Abandon All Hope*?

Yes. It's actually the response to me saying, "You two at best are functional morons." To which Jensen looks at me and goes, "Yeah, you're functioning– morons." I had a really hard time getting past that without cracking up. There's some lovely witty stuff in that scene; some very funny bits. There's a lot of me speaking, and it was fun to play with the boys.

Is there anything else you'd like to say about Crowley?

There was a definite sense of the inevitable, as though I'd been paying attention, that Crowley had been waiting his turn, waiting for his chance. The question, of course, is going to be: did Crowley know that the Colt doesn't work against Lucifer, or did he just assume that it would? That's the question in my mind that we're probably going to have to find out. Lucifer says, "Don't you know



"THE QUESTION, OF COURSE, IS GOING TO BE: DID CROWLEY KNOW THAT THE COLT DOESN'T WORK AGAINST LUCIFER, OR DID HE JUST ASSUME THAT IT WOULD?"

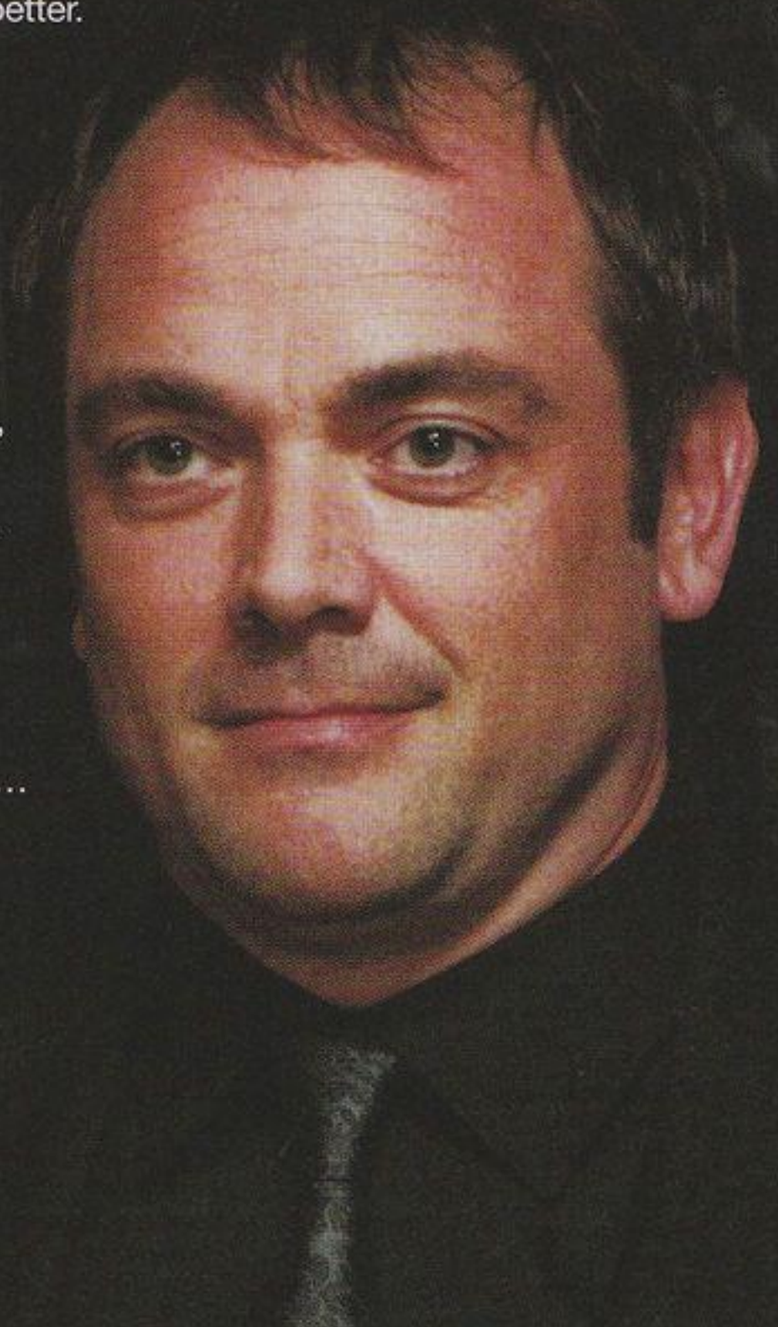
that there are five people that the Colt doesn't work with?" Do you think that Crowley did or didn't know this? If he does know it, that would make it interesting. And if he doesn't, then how are the boys going to treat him the next time they see him? It certainly will raise a big question when that comes around. I think that's the real crux here: does Crowley believe that the Colt will work against Lucifer, or does he know that it won't? If you can answer that question, you might have an idea where Crowley's going. When we've worked that out, we'll understand Crowley a lot better.

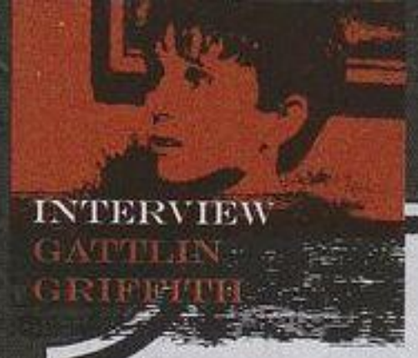
Are there any behind the scenes stories that you'd like to share about working on *Supernatural*?

I broke the Colt! An incredibly expensive prop... It's an old weapon. It's a beautiful weapon, but it's a true-to-form old weapon. It has no trigger guard. Those guns are notorious for having bad springs, and I broke a spring while we were in the middle of it. It's always been such an iconic part of the show… and I literally broke the gun!

Is there anything else you can share with the fans?

It's always about the fans. What Eric and the rest of the guys do is for the fans; it's not an indulgence just for ourselves. It's very much designed and created for the fan base. It's important that these characters resonate within the world that's been created. It's very important that they resonate in that way. I hope that Crowley resonates in that world, because it's a hell of a fun world to watch. I can't wait to do it again!





L'il Devil

Kids tend to be a little on the scary side on *Supernatural*, but things weren't so simple in Jesse Turner's case. In *I Believe the Children are the Future*, Jesse found out he was the Anti-Christ and possessed of massive demonic power. Actor Gattlin Griffith talked to *The Official Supernatural Magazine* about playing this pivotal role...

Words: Bryan Cairns

As the hosts of Heaven and Hell marshal their forces for the Apocalypse, one figure could prove to be key in the coming battle – the Anti-Christ, otherwise known as Jesse Turner. Contrary to popular expectations however, the Anti-Christ wasn't a malevolent son of the Devil. Rather he was a lonely, scared kid who didn't realize he was born of a demon-possessed mother, or of the unbelievable power he had. That power was shown when he was able to do everything from make a babysitter scratch her own brain out to turning Castiel into an action figure!

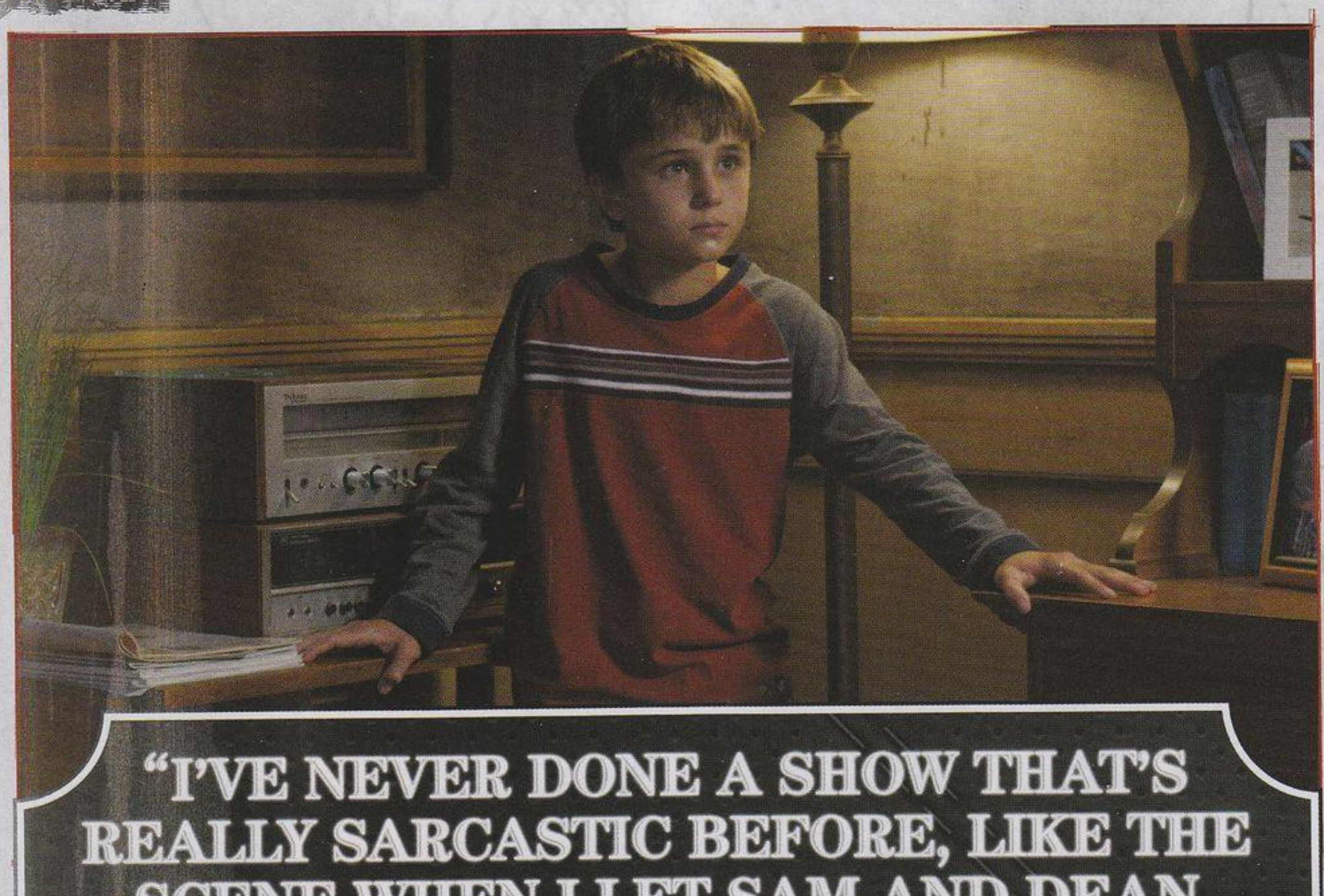
The task of bringing Jesse to the screen was down to actor Gattlin Griffith, who already has a number of film and TV projects on his resumé. So what was it that drew Gattlin to acting in the first place? "Well, my dad's a stuntman and I always thought it would be really cool [to go into the business too], so one day he asked me what I wanted to be and I said 'Hmm... I want to be an actor.' My big break was *Changeling* [in which Gattlin played the son of Angelina Jolie's character]. When I auditioned for it, I didn't even have to do a callback. They just picked me right after the audition, which I guess is how [*Changeling* director] Clint Eastwood works." It would seem

Gattlin learned a lot from working with the Oscar-winning-actor-turned-director, and his leading lady, too. "Angelina Jolie was so nice, and she taught me to just be calm," Gattlin says. "Clint Eastwood told me to take my time and ask as many questions as I needed to. A saying he taught me was, 'More takes doesn't make a better movie.' They were all really nice."

So was being cast in *Supernatural* as easy as being cast by Clint Eastwood? "My agent sent me for that job," says Griffith. "*Supernatural*'s my mom's favorite show, so she was like 'Oh, cool! You could audition for this!' I thought, 'I'm going to make my mom proud!' I just went in there and got it." Being cast on your mom's favorite show is surely the best way to have her glowing with pride, but Gattlin wasn't a die-hard fan himself. "Sometimes I'd walk in the room and catch a little and then watch the rest of the show. I thought it was pretty cool." Even all the horrific elements that *Supernatural* does so well? "I think I like them until I watch them!" Griffith laughs. "I become spooked out, and then I like them again when I'm not watching them!"

The character of Jesse Turner isn't exactly run-of-the-mill. There aren't many kids who can change reality with their thoughts. When Gattlin got the role of Jesse Turner, what was he told about about the character and his powers? "They told me I was supposed to be this normal

"SUPERNATURAL'S MY MOM'S FAVORITE SHOW, SO SHE WAS LIKE 'OH, COOL! YOU COULD AUDITION FOR THIS!' I THOUGHT, 'I'M GOING TO MAKE MY MOM PROUD!'"



"I'VE NEVER DONE A SHOW THAT'S REALLY SARCASTIC BEFORE, LIKE THE SCENE WHEN I LET SAM AND DEAN COME IN THE HOUSE AT THE BEGINNING. IT WAS FUN DOING THAT."

kid and didn't know anything about my powers. I'm just a clueless, ordinary boy that hangs out when his parents aren't home and does his homework."

As a child actor, homework still plays its part in Gattlin's life away from the camera too, meaning he has to juggle both roles. "When there's school, you focus on that, and when there's an acting job, you focus on acting," says Gattlin with confidence. "You just take it step by step and don't think about it."

It may be easy enough to juggle the workload, but there's also the matter of friends at school reacting to seeing him on TV or movie screens. "They think it's pretty cool," says Gattlin. "Sometimes my football friends might call me 'the drama queen' or something like that! I'm just like 'You know what? Thank you very much.'"

I Believe The Children are The Future certainly saw Gattlin having to get in touch with some serious emotions, as he was confronted by his demon-possessed biological mother and found that he had power beyond comprehension. As for whether he had a favorite part of the episode to shoot, Gattlin says, "Probably when I had to do that real emotional scene, because it's hard for me to do little stuff and 'under-act.' And I've never done a show that's really sarcastic before, like the scene when I let Sam and Dean come in the house at the beginning. It was fun doing that too, so I'm not sure what my favorite moment was."

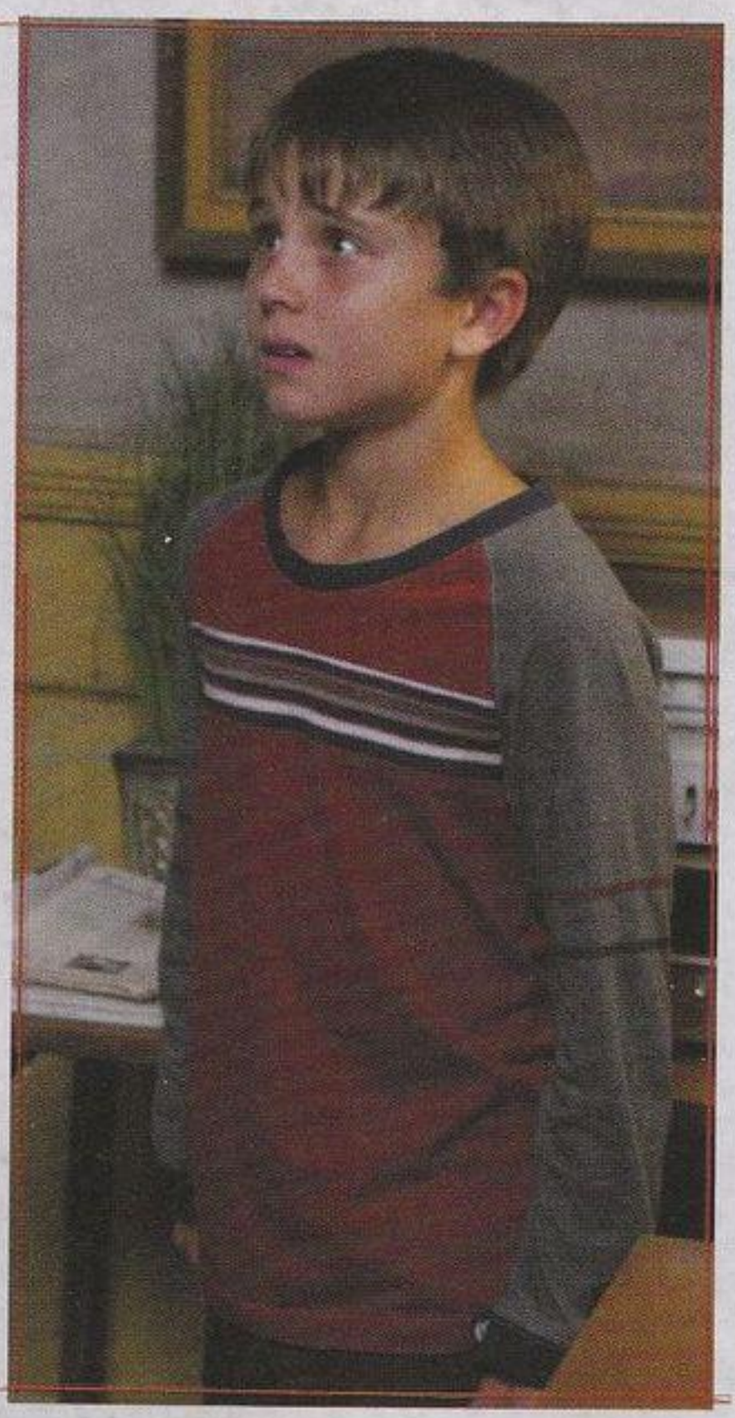
Director Charles Beeson was also on hand to ask for tips when it came to dealing with the special effects or the big emotions. "He told me to act how I really would if I was actually in that situation," says Gattlin. "Then I was supposed to get angrier and angrier in that scene where there's a demon inside my mom. I needed to get mad to the highest point and then go down on the next scene. The special effects were amazing. How do those guys do that stuff anyway?"

If you ask us, we think the special effects team must have some kind of superhuman powers. Initially, Dean told Jesse that he was like a superhero. If Gattlin had the choice, would there be a set of abilities he would like to have? "Well, doesn't every kid want superpowers?" says Gattlin. "It would be really cool if I could fly or move super-fast. My favorite superhero is Spider-Man, but I like watching all those superhero movies, like *Iron Man*."

In the end, Jesse did listen to Sam and refused to let his powers be

exploited by Lucifer and his demons. As Gattlin says, he thinks Jesse had a very good reason for ultimately trusting Sam. "Probably because Sam was part-demon as well as Jesse. Jesse thought he and Sam must have a connection because they were both kind of freaks, so he understood what that felt like."

Freaks and monsters seem to be something of a theme in Gattlin's next project too – a film with Kevin Costner called *The New Daughter*. "I play Sam James, who is Kevin Costner's character's son," explains Gattlin. "His dad gets divorced and moves away with his daughter and son to the middle of nowhere. His daughter finds this mound, and becomes possessed by it. She keeps going over to the mound and we find monsters there. It's all about her and these monsters, who are trying to take over the world." It sounds to us like Gattlin's returning to his spooky roots. "Yeah, it's fun because there's so much adrenaline," Gattlin says. "When you get to the really scary scenes, you're all nervous, and sometimes there are



creatures so you're like, 'Oh my God! The monsters!' It's fun though."

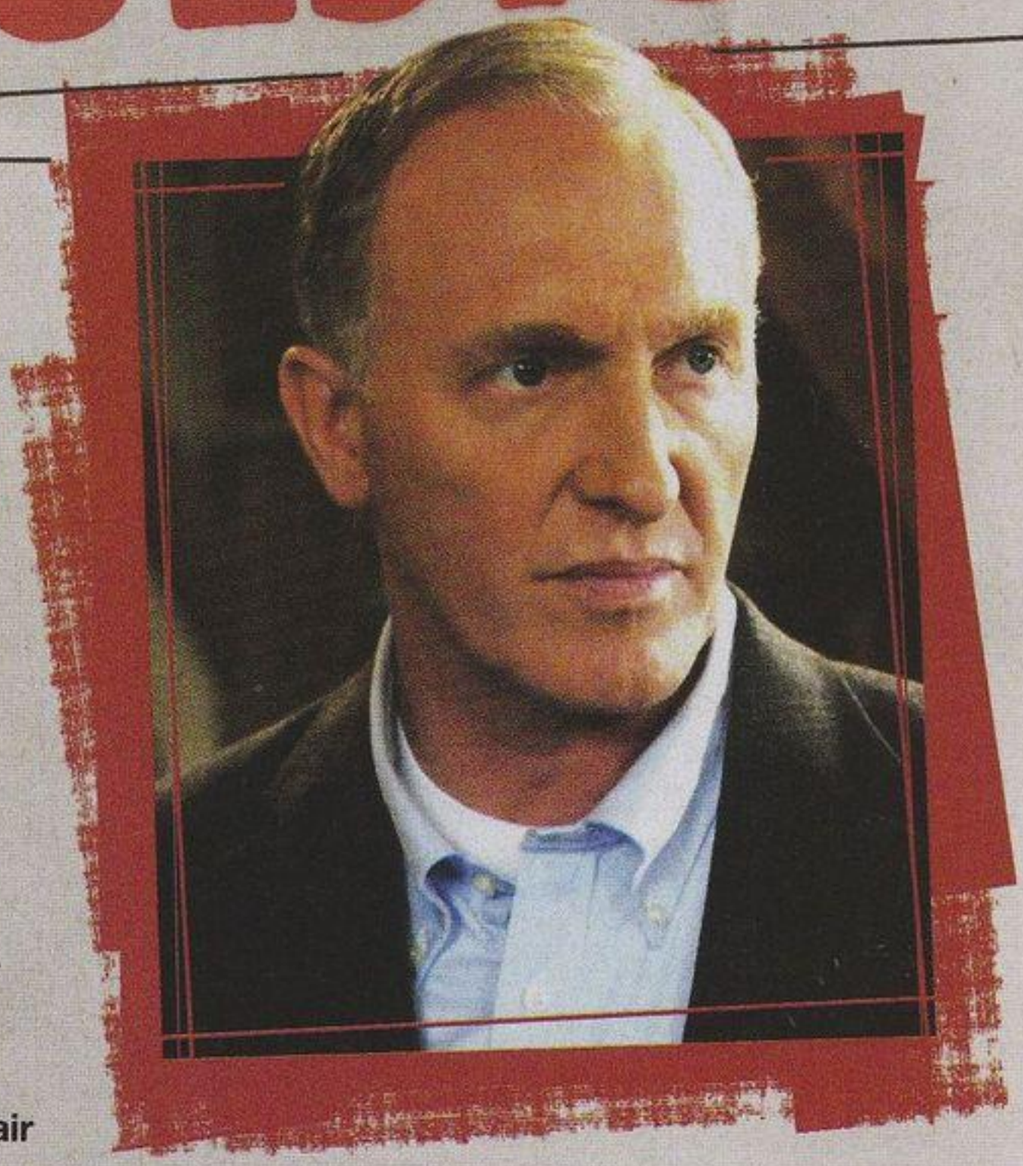
Now that Gattlin's done both television and movies, what's the difference between them for him? "In movies, you get to know the people a lot more, because if you have a big role, you're there a lot longer. On television, you have to get in rolling on the first day. I personally feel television can be a little harder."

Hard it may be, but one thing that *Supernatural* guest stars always seem to agree on is how much they enjoy working with its leading men. It seems working with Jared and Jensen was just as much fun for Gattlin: "They were really nice and made me feel comfortable, as if I was at home. We threw the football around a lot. They said they played in high school, if I recall correctly."

Before he transported himself to Australia, Sam and Dean warned Jesse that once you get sucked into the war between Heaven and Hell, there's no going back. As for whether Gattlin would like Jesse to appear again on *Supernatural*, "I would love to come back!" Gattlin enthuses. "That would be amazing. While I was there, they said, 'I can't wait for you to come back!' So hopefully there's a good chance!"

DEJA VIEW
MARK ROLSTON

Words: Nicholas Knight



Alastair was one of the most powerful demons in the *Supernatural* universe, not far from Lilith and the Yellow-Eyed Demon in the pecking order of Hell. And, as revealed in both *The Official Supernatural Magazine*'s most recent *Supernatural* Awards and *Totalscifionline*'s Top Ten Villains poll, Hell's Torturer-in-Chief is the villain the fans love to hate the most, so we decided to revisit the character with Alastair's original meatsuit, actor Mark Rolston.

***The Official Supernatural Magazine*: Do you think Alastair is truly dead, or will he be back for revenge in season six?**

Mark Rolston: Alastair truly is one of the baddest of the bad, so I'm sure he can find his way back in again to mess with the boys. And I gotta tell you, I would *love* to get back on the show and [play] this character again.

What did you love most about playing the character?

A big part of it was just the freedom to develop a character. Because this show is rooted in the supernatural, it gives you license to do things you wouldn't normally be able to do. Often times, even in movies that I do, people dial you down a little bit. For example, in the movie *The Departed* I had this big scene with Jack Nicholson, and he's the only guy I've ever seen who can go so far over the top and just shoot for the moon and really push the envelope. When we were doing that scene, I thought to myself, "Wow, only Jack Nicholson could push the scene this way and have Martin Scorsese go, 'Oh that's great, that's great.' Anybody else and Scorsese would've been like, 'Come here, kid, what are you doing?'" So I was overjoyed that the directors [Charles Beeson and J. Miller Tobin] really gave me full support on how I played Alastair – it was this reckless abandon that suited the character so well because he's not afraid of anything.

Had you ever done a character like Alastair before?

Let me tell you, after my wife watched the episodes, she turned to me and said, "That is the most outrageous I have ever seen you be!"

What's your favorite line of Alastair dialogue?

When I first encountered Robert Wisdom's character, Uriel, where I was very dismissive of him, I called him a "sanctimonious prick" and I said it with such relish. It isn't often you get to say a word like "prick" on TV, but that's a really good cuss word. It came out of my mouth with such venom, so I really liked that.

Are there any behind-the-scenes details from your time on the *Supernatural* set that you didn't share with us last time?

Well, something that I found interesting was the day we were doing the green screen of Anna's explosion, of my death, because that was my first real experience doing a lot of green screen stuff. I was due to fly out the day before, but they said to me, "We need to hold you over one more day, but it'll only be a couple of hours and then we'll get you on a flight home." Well, it ended up turning into almost an entire day just because of the technical aspects of setting up the camera and the green screen and making sure it matched the film. It was really quite intricate. I enjoyed that, though, because I learned a lot about green screen work.

Another thing is that I love Vancouver; it's one of my favorite cities in the world. I've got some really great friends there, so getting to be there also colored my enjoyment of the role.

Do you believe that demons exist in the real world?

It's a possibility. In our world, often it's the most inconspicuous person that turns out to be the biggest monster. That was one of the interesting things about the concept for Alastair, that he was dressed down, like he was selling a car or something, he wasn't in a black leather suit with studded bands on his wrists, and he didn't have horns or anything like that. He was just a very innocuous, everyday kind of guy, somebody who on the outside looks like he couldn't hurt a fly. It's the same in real life that once you actually get in contact with certain seemingly ordinary people, they just give you that evil vibe.

In *The Official Supernatural Magazine's* 2009 *Supernatural* Awards, the readers selected Alastair as the Best Monster – congratulations!

Wow, that is so cool! Thank you!

You're welcome! Do you have any final thoughts on playing Alastair?

I hope it's *not* final. All the fans should get in contact with the studio and have them bring me back!

DEJA VIEW
GENEVIEVE CORTESE

Words: Nicholas Knight

Ruby was the type of character that people loved to hate. And Sam, well, he didn't love or hate her. Sure, he hates her *now*, after her evil plot was revealed, but during their demon blood co-dependency? Let's just say their relationship was *complicated*. Off-screen, however, Jared Padalecki did indeed fall in love with Ruby, or at least her real life counterpart, Genevieve Cortese. There's possibly little chance she'll be back on the show after Ruby's demise, but Cortese caught us up on her relationship with her new husband, her favorite Ruby scene, and what she's up to now.

***The Official Supernatural Magazine*: Ever since news of your relationship with Jared Padalecki became public, people have been wondering if filming that love scene in *I Know What You Did Last Summer* was when the sparks first started flying between you two?**

Genevieve Cortese: No, it wasn't, actually. We were really good friends, but we weren't together at that point.

How did you keep the filming of that love scene more friendly than flirtatious?

We just had a really good, fun relationship. We're both goofballs. We really love to make fun of each other. I think he would try and show off a little bit and I would tell him to leave me alone. It kind of went from there. We just love to goof off a lot, and he's known for being this very strong, studly guy, so someone had to put him in his place.

You're a fan of bands like The Kinks, The Kooks, and Interpol, so when you're in a car or at home or wherever, do you and Jared fight over whether to listen to modern rock or classic rock? And does he make you listen to country, too?

We have a really fun time with music because I feel like we're constantly exchanging, and that's a little bit of how we first started courting, talking about music. I really love finding new obscure bands, and I really love [exploring] European bands. He knows a lot more about classic rock than I do, and he also knows solid musicians that I didn't necessarily know about before. He really loves [talented] guitar players, and he has a good ear for all kinds of solid bands. We always have this fun exchange going. We definitely mix and match, from Kenny Wayne Shepherd on his end to Florence and the Machine on mine. It's an eclectic mix.

According to the rumor mill, your birth name is Jennifer – did you change it for acting, or earlier?

It's kind of a long story, but essentially my parents named me Genevieve and then at the last minute changed it to Jennifer, but I've grown up being told my name was Genevieve. No one's ever called me Jennifer, so it'd be weird to hear it. So no, it wasn't for acting. Genevieve was my grandmother's name.

When you last spoke with the magazine, you didn't know whether Ruby was actually good or evil. What did you think once you found out her endgame?

There was always something new that we learned about her in every episode she was in, and it seemed to me that she was definitely scheming something, so I always felt like there was something bad coming.

What was your favorite *Supernatural* scene to work on?

I think probably the last scene in *Lucifer Rising* would be my favorite. I really had a lot of fun with that.

You had an awesome monologue in that scene – was that fun to do? Or was it bittersweet because your meatiest performance was also your last?

Eric wrote a really great monologue. It was exciting to finish that way – it felt really cathartic. It *was* bittersweet, but that whole episode was a lot of fun. It was also nice working with Jared so much. It was a really wonderful experience.

What was it like working with Eric Kripke on an episode that he wrote and directed?

I love direction, so I love for the creator to be there on set like that... I actually felt so relieved because I didn't have to call and ask him questions; he was right there! It was awesome.

When you saw the finished episode, was it disconcerting to see yourself die? Or were you just like, 'Ooh, cool effects?'

The effects *were* really cool. But seeing my death felt kind of anticlimactic in a way. It was strange, but it didn't feel too bizarre.

Speaking of bizarre things, did anything strange or spooky ever happen while you were working on *Supernatural*?

No, but I shot a show [*Wildfire*] in New Mexico for four years, and I had all kinds of weird experiences back then. We would film out on this Indian reservation, and things would happen all the time, like where a car would be turned off and all of a sudden the horn would start honking. I had doors slam on me in these old adobe places. And in one place we saw these weird orbs. I've definitely had my [supernatural] experiences.

Everyone in the world goes through a strange experience at the start of your latest series, *Flash Forward*. Would you recommend for your *Supernatural* fans to follow you over there?

Yeah, it's really fun! This big global blackout occurs and everyone passes out, and people see their lives flash forward to six months from then. Some people are in these situations that they have no idea why they're there, and there are unthinkable situations for other people, and some people are exactly where they thought they'd be, and some people don't see anything, which means they could potentially be dead. It's really fascinating because it brings up the question of, "Can you change the future, or are you just destined to end up there?" There's also a butterfly effect where if you do alter the future slightly, then how is it affected and *who* is affected? It's a cool show, and I definitely think *Supernatural* fans will enjoy it, too.

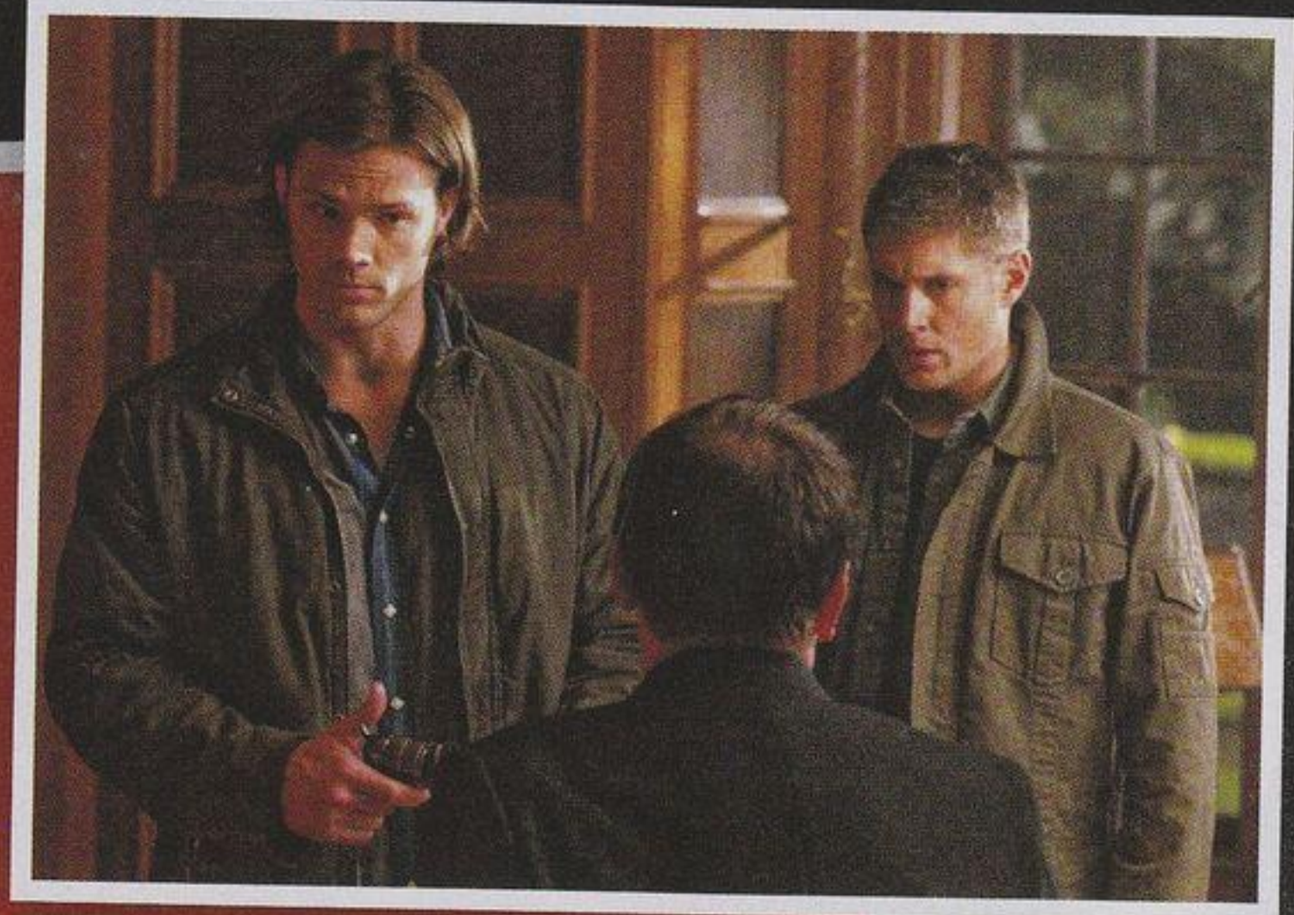
Words:
Nicholas Knight

SEALED WITH A KISS

Considering he's a demon, he owned Bobby's soul, and more than a little manipulative, we should really hate Crowley. However, this witty Crossroads Demon has fast become a favorite with *Supernatural* fans. *The Official Supernatural* Magazine caught up with the actor who plays this silver-tongued devil, Mark Sheppard...

***The Official Supernatural Magazine*: Crowley is an evil demon, yet he fought against the Devil, and therefore in a way is one of the good guys. He's the perfect example of someone we love to hate, or secretly love to love. From your standpoint, what's the fan response been like for Crowley?**

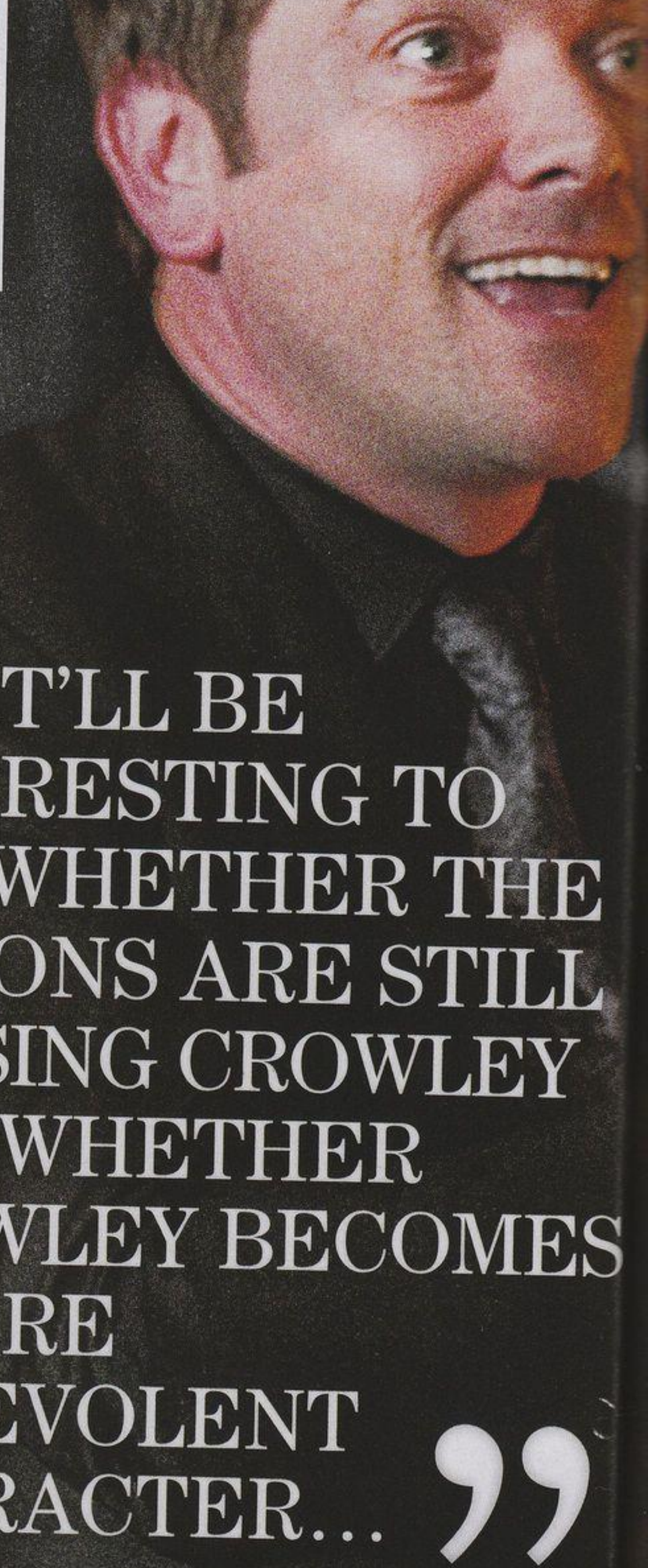
Mark Sheppard: The fan response to Crowley has been amazing. It's just been extraordinary. Twitter traffic has been crazy. It's been a great joy to me. I read a lot of the stuff that went online about episode 520 [*The Devil You Know*], and the fans seemed to really respond well to it. The end scene of 520, where I get shot by Bobby with rock salt and I tell him it's just a soul, give me your soul, and we fade to black, is actually a scene that was shot for 521 [*Two Minutes to Midnight*]. I thought it was a fabulous piece of editing, because 520 was just packed as it was. It was amazingly big, and I think the fans really liked that episode.



When we spoke last, you said your favorite scene in *Abandon All Hope* was your introduction, where you kissed Harvey Gold. How did kissing Jim Beaver in *Two Minutes to Midnight* compare?
He was less sweaty than the other guy, which was great. Jim's not a bad kisser, let's put it that way, but he needs to shave a bit. I feel bad for Jim, though. I had the advantage from doing *Abandon All Hope*, because it's a very odd thing to do. It's such a not-sexy thing to do in that context. I'm not saying Jim isn't a sexy man, but he just doesn't happen to be my cup of tea. Director Phil Sgriccia just kept milking it. "Oh, I need to do another. Oh, hold on." We were cracking up, because he got us to kiss for, like, four minutes. There's some great stuff on the gag reel. I think it's a superbly written moment. It's perfect for Crowley. Part of the fun for Crowley is seeing how uncomfortable he can make [someone else].

It must have been pretty uncomfortable for Crowley when Bobby shot him!
Getting shot was fun! I did the stunts on that. [Stunt coordinator] Lou Bollo was pulling me around with a pull rope. We blew apart some Ted Baker suits, which was really sad for me, because Ted Baker is in fact my tailor.

Did you suggest Ted Baker suits for the show?
The costume designer [Diane Widas], who is fantastic, said, "You're a Ted Baker boy, aren't you?" She liked Ted Baker's stuff, so she was able to incorporate that with her own flair to bring something extra to it. "They ate my tailor" is actually a funnier line to me


"IT'LL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHETHER THE DEMONS ARE STILL CHASING CROWLEY AND WHETHER CROWLEY BECOMES A MORE BENEVOLENT CHARACTER..."

than you could possibly know! When Bobby first shoots me, originally I pulled the pocket square out of my pocket, and it was folded so many times that it literally had 128 bullet holes in it. It was very funny. But every time, I'd be like, "Aw, that's another suit, and I really liked this suit!" So the line, "I *liked* this suit" was true, genuinely true.

Crowley has some great lines – do you have a favorite?

My agent loved, "In the flesh of a moderately successful literary agent out of New York." He thought that was the greatest line of all time.

"Where's your moose?" is one of the best lines I've ever had to deliver. Poor Jared! I got moose and "Gigantor" out in two episodes, which I thought was very funny. There have been so many fun Crowley lines. "They ate my tailor" is one of the greatest lines I've had written for me.

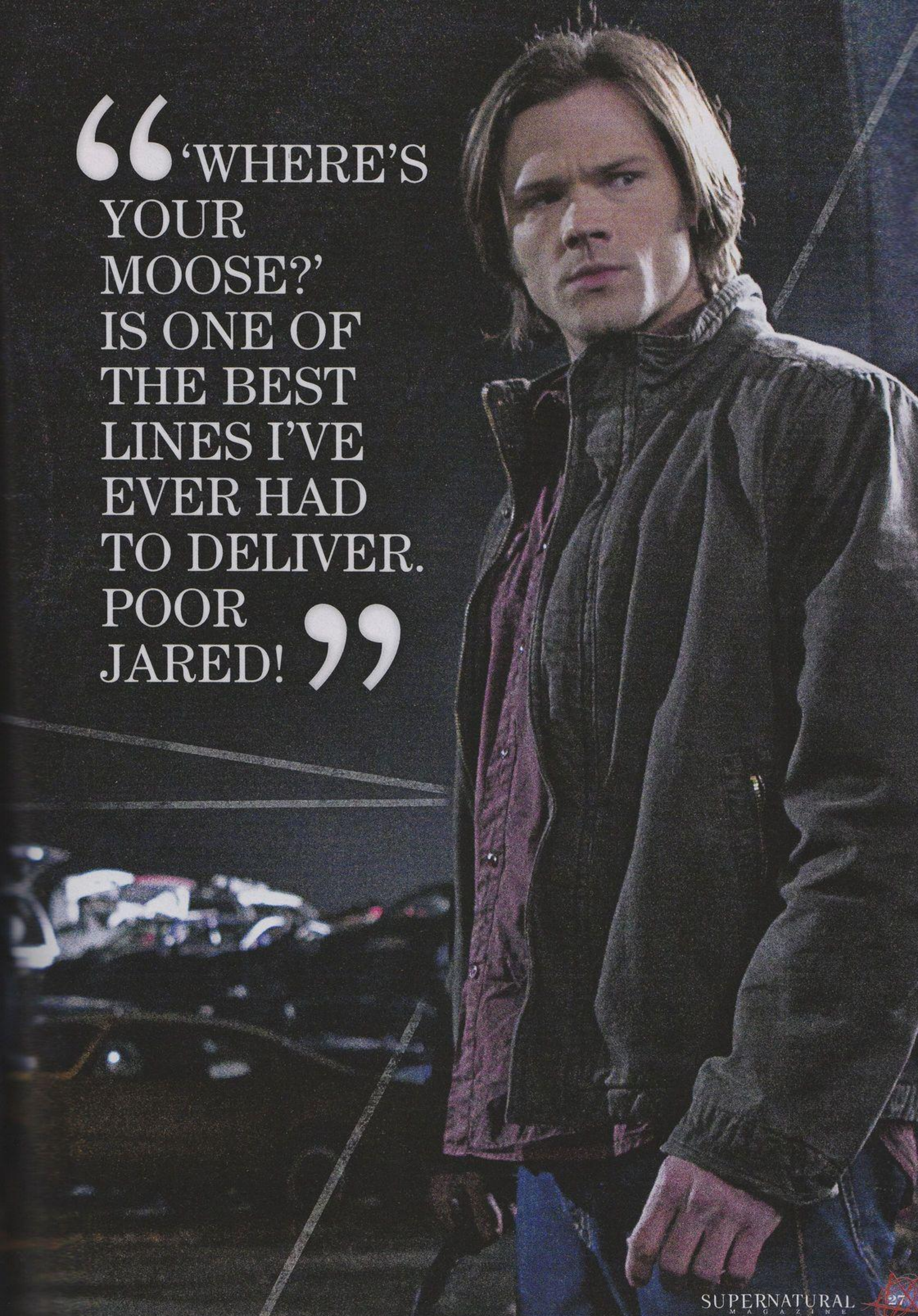
Supernatural is really well-written; both Ben Edlund [*Abandon All Hope* and *The Devil You Know*] and Sera Gamble [*Two Minutes to Midnight*] wrote really taut dialogue. All the writers and directors I've worked with on *Supernatural* are people that never cease to help me with what I'm doing with my character. They really create a place where we can make this something very special.

Were there any great lines you had that didn't make it into the final cut?

When you see the gag reel, Jim Beaver's got a great line in there. We kept changing the whiskey that I pull out [in *Two Minutes to Midnight*]. I'm like, "Do you have anything better than this?" And he says, "Yeah, it's a bottle of Old F-You under the sink." It was hysterical!

And there was a gag that was written in the script that was fantastic. When Dean and I are sitting outside Niveus Pharmaceuticals in the Impala and Dean thinks the people in the lobby are demons, and I say, 'Nah, human shields. The demons are up top. 12th floor." The script had "23rd floor." Well, the 23rd floor is the great gag floor from the writers' room of *Your Show of Shows* – Sid Ceaser, Danny Simon, Neil Simon, Woody Allen, Larry Gelbart, all those great writers that worked on the 23rd floor. So it was a great gag to have the demons being on the 23rd floor,

INTERVIEW
MARK
SHEPPARD


“‘WHERE’S YOUR MOOSE?’ IS ONE OF THE BEST LINES I’VE EVER HAD TO DELIVER. POOR JARED!”

INTERVIEW
MARK
SHEPPARD

“PART OF THE FUN FOR CROWLEY IS SEEING HOW UNCOMFORTABLE HE CAN MAKE SOMEONE ELSE.”

but we had an elevator that only had 12 buttons so we had to change it to the 12th floor. I hit the 12th floor button and Dean's like, "You're not coming?" And I'm like, "Oh, no, it's not safe up there. There's demons." I love that stuff! It just cascades – it's lovely dialogue to read.

Another fun bit of dialogue in *The Devil You Know* is when you talk about bringing your own Hellhound into the fight and how yours is bigger than the other one. They used stuntmen covered from head to toe in green to help with the Hellhound effects – was it a little strange working with those green guys?

I love that line and the patting of the dog, but I'm not patting a man in a green suit, trust me, I'm patting the air. It would be very weird getting him out just for that shot. But it is great to watch them do their stunts. It's a very surreal experience, because you watch them crashing through things and it's serious, complex stunt work, but then they CG them out and it's the absence of them that makes things look so interesting. I think *Supernatural*'s visual effects department is just amazing. For the amount of money they have, they present a fabulous weekly visual delight. It's pretty hardcore.

Hardcore pizza lovers rave about Chicago's famous deep dish pizza. Even Death

likes it! Have you ever eaten pizza in Chicago?

Yes, I have. It absolutely lives up to its reputation. Their pizza pie *is* pie. It's great stuff. My favorite part of the series so far is at that pizza parlor. It's the moment when Dean realizes just what he's got into when the scythe heats up and Dean lets go and then Death speaks, and he's like, "Oh, crap, this is not going to be quite as simple as I thought it was going to be." It was just a brilliant moment. Dean's sitting there thinking, "I'm dead. This is *Death* and I'm dead. Why did I ever listen to Crowley?" And then Death goes, "I have a proposition for you..." It's just not what you'd expect, and that's what's great about *Supernatural* – it's so much more than people expect it to be.

With the reputation it's built for itself, it seems like anyone working on *Supernatural* can expect to have a great time.

The fun that is had is outrageous. As a place to go to work, it's so much fun. There's just a great amount of camaraderie.

I was shooting during the Vancouver Winter Olympics, and we were the only show that was shooting through the Olympics because we don't generally shoot downtown in Vancouver. That translated to us being on set where the producers and everybody tried to engineer lunches to fit around the hockey games to make sure that the Canadians could get to see some of the greatest hockey that's ever been played. Jensen was even walking around wearing a Canadian hockey shirt for a week. Because of the Olympics, there were no rooms in any inns anywhere, so they had to rent me an apartment. I was sitting there watching the hockey final in downtown Vancouver with all the windows open. Every single time there was a play I could hear the entire city speak. "*Ooh. Ahh.*" It was the most amazing time to be there.

Looking forward to season six, what do you think is next for Crowley?

I think he needs his own show! Called "Oh, Crowley!" I'm fascinated to see where they go from this point. And where are they going to start next? Are they going to jump forward? Are they going to jump backward? Are they going to jump sideways? Or are they just going to continue? I'm looking forward to it. I think there's a lot more fun to come from Crowley. They're gonna have to resolve the Bobby/Crowley issue. How does Bobby get his soul back without giving up [the use of] his legs? Presuming we're coming back into a season that exists in normal time and continues from where we were, it'll be interesting to see whether the demons are still chasing Crowley and whether Crowley becomes a more benevolent character or not, or whether he becomes another sidekick or something. But I don't think it's going to be that simple, do you? It can go anywhere. That's the thrill. To speculate would diminish the fantastic surprises that I'll have just from picking up the scripts and reading them. It's so much fun to play in that world, and I hope I get to do it again.

DEJA VIEW RACHEL MINER

Words: Nicholas Knight

At the start of season five, the demon Meg returned with a vengeance: she had one of her minions possess Bobby, which ultimately led to him becoming crippled, and she left Sam with some very painful bruises before she smoked out. Fortunately for all the fans who love to hate her, Meg came back in *Abandon All Hope*, once again played by Rachel Miner, who updated us on her second appearance and her hopes for returning in season six...

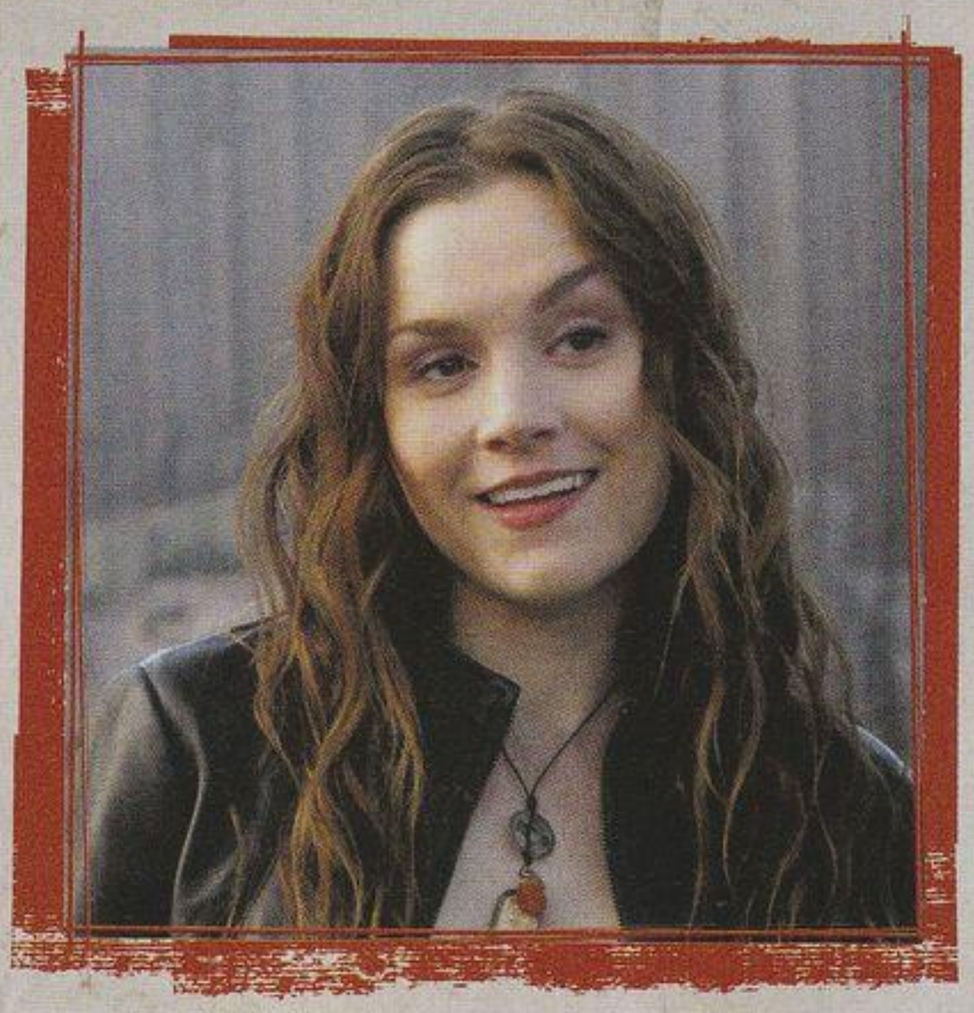
***The Official Supernatural Magazine*: Last time we spoke, you said, "I have my fingers crossed that I'll return." So is it safe to assume that you were excited when you received the call for *Abandon All Hope*?**

Rachel Miner: It's such a fun show to work on, and I really was hoping they would bring me back. I really enjoyed the experience.

I'm just amazed at how nice everyone is. I've never seen a show where so many people who've worked on it stay a part of the family, so to speak. I went to a screening of my first episode and there were people there that had worked two seasons before who still showed up. It was a testament to how great the experience was for them that they would want to, and it was also a testament to the people who worked on the show that they still invited all these people. They really welcome you with open arms and make you feel like you're part of the family. I've done many more episodes on other shows than the two episodes I've done on *Supernatural* and I've never been made to feel as much a part of the group as I was here. I think it spreads out all around because the community of *Supernatural* fans that I've met are the same way – very open, very loving. That's so much fun to be a part of.

You mentioned last time that fans responded positively to your portrayal of Meg. Has that continued since your return in *Abandon All Hope*?.

Because I know coming into a show that people really love, you don't want to take away from that or do something that doesn't jibe with what they love about the show, especially taking over a character that's already been established. I was relieved that a certain number of people really enjoyed what I did and that it fit with what Nicki Aycox had done, and also with the show in general. That made me feel really good. I wanted to make it better, not worse. It's nice to be appreciated, and it's nice to know that you're helping to add to the joy that people experience by watching the show.



You also commented last time on how much you love to read. What are some of your favorite books?

The History of Knowledge, *The Biography of London*, *Atlas Shrugged*, *Les Misérables*, *Catch 22*, *Harry Potter*, and *The Lord of the Rings*. And Phillip Pullman is wonderful – I loved the *His Dark Materials* books. I like good writing, whatever genre, but I'm not so much into horror, more sci-fi and fantasy. I'm a big geek!

We've spoken with the directors of your episodes – executive producers Bob Singer and Phil Sgriccia – and neither one of them used a word like geek. More like sweet and talented! What were your experiences like with them?

Both directors were really fun to work with. They're very good at what they do because both of those episodes were particularly intense to shoot. There was a lot to get done, and they both kept such a great attitude. Really nice human beings. I swear, on this show they don't hire anyone but truly decent people. I've had nothing but good experiences with everyone I've worked with there.

Obviously you enjoyed working on *Supernatural*, so this isn't an easy question, but what was your favorite part of filming *Abandon All Hope*?

Misha Collins – I hadn't worked with him before, and he's so much fun to work with.

Meg definitely looked like she was having fun trying to seduce Castiel. Do you think Castiel was tempted?

I pretty much assumed he was just toying with me so that he could throw me into the fire...

Did you have to work with real fire for that scene, and if so, was it scary?

That was all added in after with visual effects. They had lights around the circle to make it look like there's fire, but it wasn't real flames.

***Supernatural* creator Eric Kripke has indicated that the holy fire did *not* kill Meg, saying "I think we'll definitely see [Rachel Miner] again." How does that make you feel?**

I'd love to come back, but all I can do is wait and see...

The Official Supernatural Magazine: As the person essentially responsible for killing Jo and Ellen in _Abandon All Hope_ by setting your Hellhounds on them, what kind of feedback have you received?

Rachel Miner: I didn't receive any negative feedback on that episode specifically when I went to a *Supernatural* event in Birmingham. I was with Alona Tal, and I think they were pretty forgiving, because obviously we get along. Not many people gave me a hard time about that. I haven't heard anything, but I'm sure people are quite unhappy, because both actresses are wonderful and the characters were very much loved. I had a lot of fun doing that episode, though.

Are you worried about how or when the Winchesters will exact revenge on Meg?

It doesn't keep me up at night [*laughs*]. It will happen at some point and I'm curious what they will come up with. I'm often surprised [when I read] the stories.

When you received the script for _Caged Heat_, were you shocked at how much Meg was in it?

Absolutely! I was very pleasantly surprised. In the past, I would show up briefly in an episode, so I couldn't believe how much I got to be a part of it. It was really fun working with the good guys for a change.

That was quite a twist having Meg team up with the Winchester boys.

Well, I loved it for so many reasons. They are so much fun to work with so it was nice to get some more stuff to do. Personally, I like being on the good side, although it's great being the bad girl too. It's fun to switch things up.

Meg has this sassy attitude and delivers some zippy one-liners. What do you enjoy about the banter between her and Sam and Dean?

I have to say it's a testament to the writing. I enjoy every line they give me. I don't have to imbue much in it because it's just amazing dialogue.

What has been your reaction to the "sexual tension" between Meg and Castiel?

Well, that was so much fun to play, and I know not all the fans love it. I've received mixed responses on that. Some people

Meg has caused the Winchesters no end of harm over the years, so it was something of a shock to find her working with Sam and Dean against Crowley in *Caged Heat*, no matter how temporarily. *The Official Supernatural Magazine* caught up with actress Rachel Miner to get her thoughts on working with invisible Hellhounds, kissing Castiel, and whether the fans have forgiven her yet for killing Jo and Ellen...

Meg caged

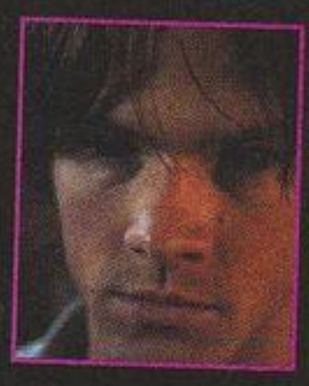
Writer:
Bryan Cairns

The Crimes of Meg

We take a look back at some of Meg's most nefarious acts so far...

121 *Salvation*

In the first host body we saw her in, Meg slaughtered the Winchesters' fellow hunters Caleb and Pastor Jim, just to set a trap for John Winchester.



214 *Born Under a Bad Sign*

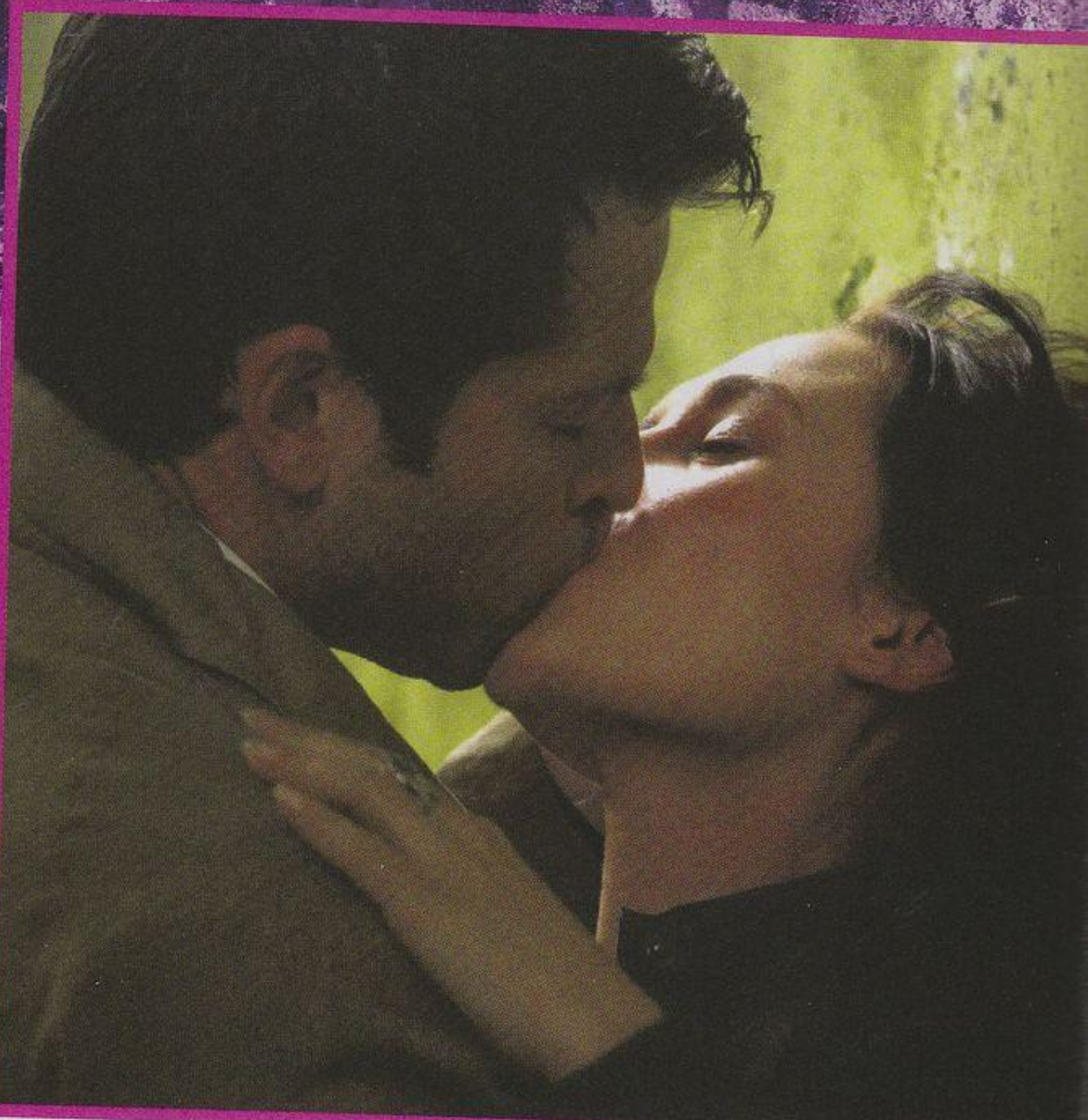
Sam's out-of-character behavior in this episode soon turned out to be down to Meg's influence, as she'd taken him as a host body. As if possessing Sam wasn't bad enough in itself, while she was in his body she murdered another hunter, Steve Wandell, almost killed Dean, and psychologically tortured Jo.

501 *Sympathy For the Devil*

As part of her plan to prevent Sam and Dean from stopping Lucifer, Meg had Bobby possessed by one of her demon lackeys. If Bobby hadn't been strong-willed enough to resist and stab himself with the demon-killing knife, Dean would have been murdered by his old friend and father figure. Thanks to Meg, Bobby ended up in a wheelchair for a substantial amount of time.

510 *Abandon All Hope*

To help Lucifer raise Death, Meg sent a pack of Hellhounds after the Winchesters and their friends. Jo was savaged by one and died of her wounds, while Ellen sacrificed herself to kill the entire pack. Meg may have temporarily worked with Sam and Dean in *Caged Heat*, but can she ever be redeemed for this particular crime?



are jealous and others feel it should never happen. There's nothing better than some good sexual tension between characters that don't belong together at all.

Is Meg just playing head games with Castiel then, or is this something genuine between them?

I don't know. It's complex when you are dealing with a demon, but Castiel definitely sparks her interest more than most. He had some effect on her, especially with that kiss.

Mind you, Meg has put the moves on both of the Winchester brothers too.

Well, they are her favorite toys to play with, so it all depends on her mood.

What kind of direction did you get for the Hellhound attack in *Caged Heat*?

I was extremely pleased with how that turned out, but that wasn't much to do with me. There's an amazing team that makes those kind of sequences work. The director, Bob Singer, is wonderful as well. I was told very clearly where the different Hellhounds were and what was going on, so I could mime the attack. Obviously, you don't see what I'm hitting, but they shot it extremely well, and the effects were outstanding!

Did your theater background help you go to that place?

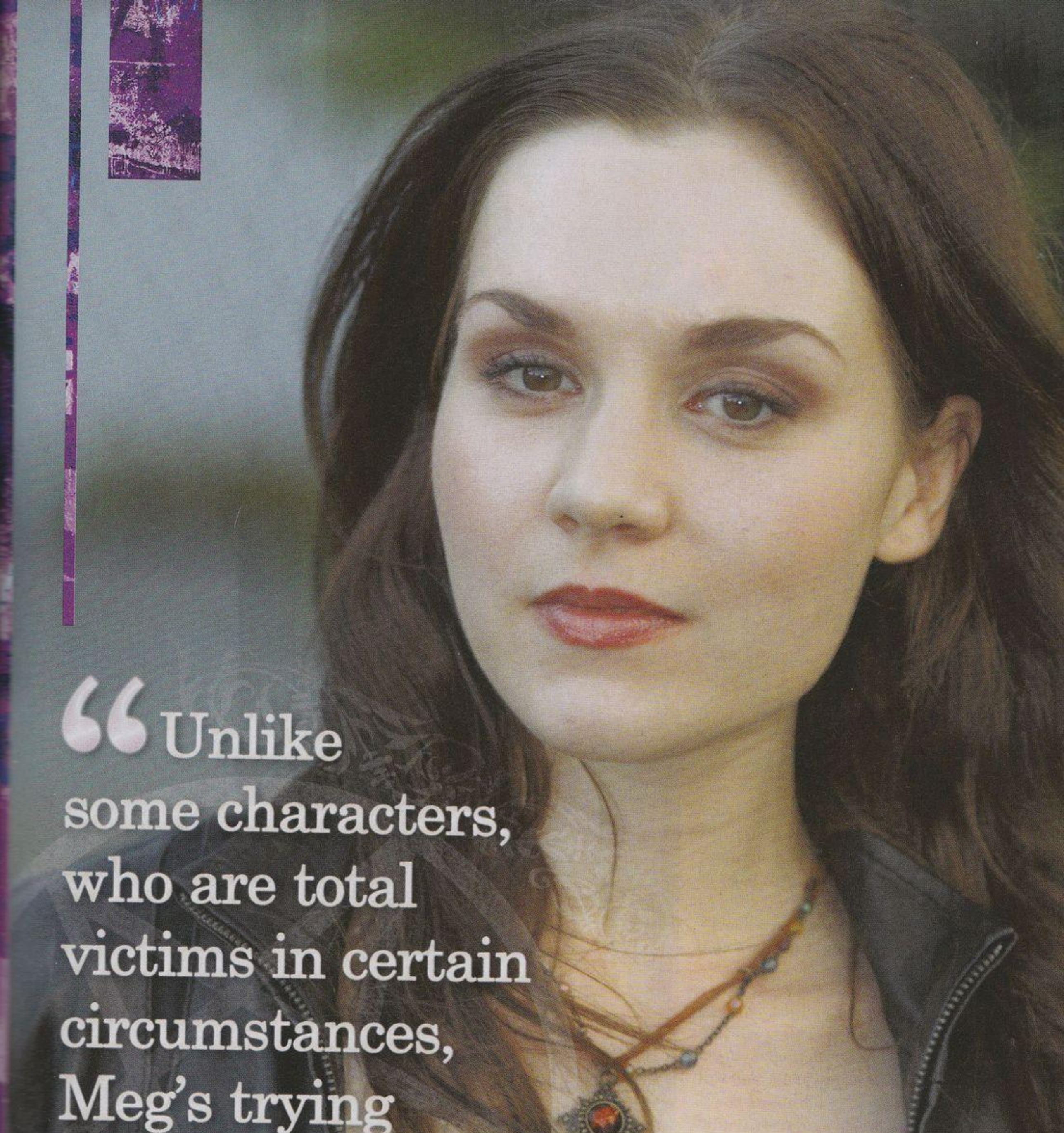
I'm sure I draw on many experiences, but I've had a vivid imagination ever since I was a little child. To me, it's not that difficult to picture something. We all do it when we read. We use our imaginations and that's all that is required.

Nothing seems to scare Meg, so how did you handle the torture scene opposite Corin Nemec's Christian?

I wouldn't say I found it enjoyable. I like the character and her strength, even though she's not a good guy. Meg is definitely tough, always has that sense of flirting, and is trying to keep some sense of integrity, even in the worst-case scenario. Unlike some characters, who are total victims in certain circumstances, she's trying to hold onto a position of power when she obviously doesn't have it.

One interesting turn was when Meg volunteered some back-story on her host body.

Yeah, I always like to know details, and the more the better in terms of understanding the character. I love when they give us little pieces of information. That was quite an interesting comment on her [host body] being an actress too.


“Unlike some characters, who are total victims in certain circumstances, Meg’s trying to hold onto a position of power when she obviously doesn’t have it.”

On the flipside, Meg dished out some pain to Crowley. As Alastair's star pupil, would you like to see what she's really capable of?

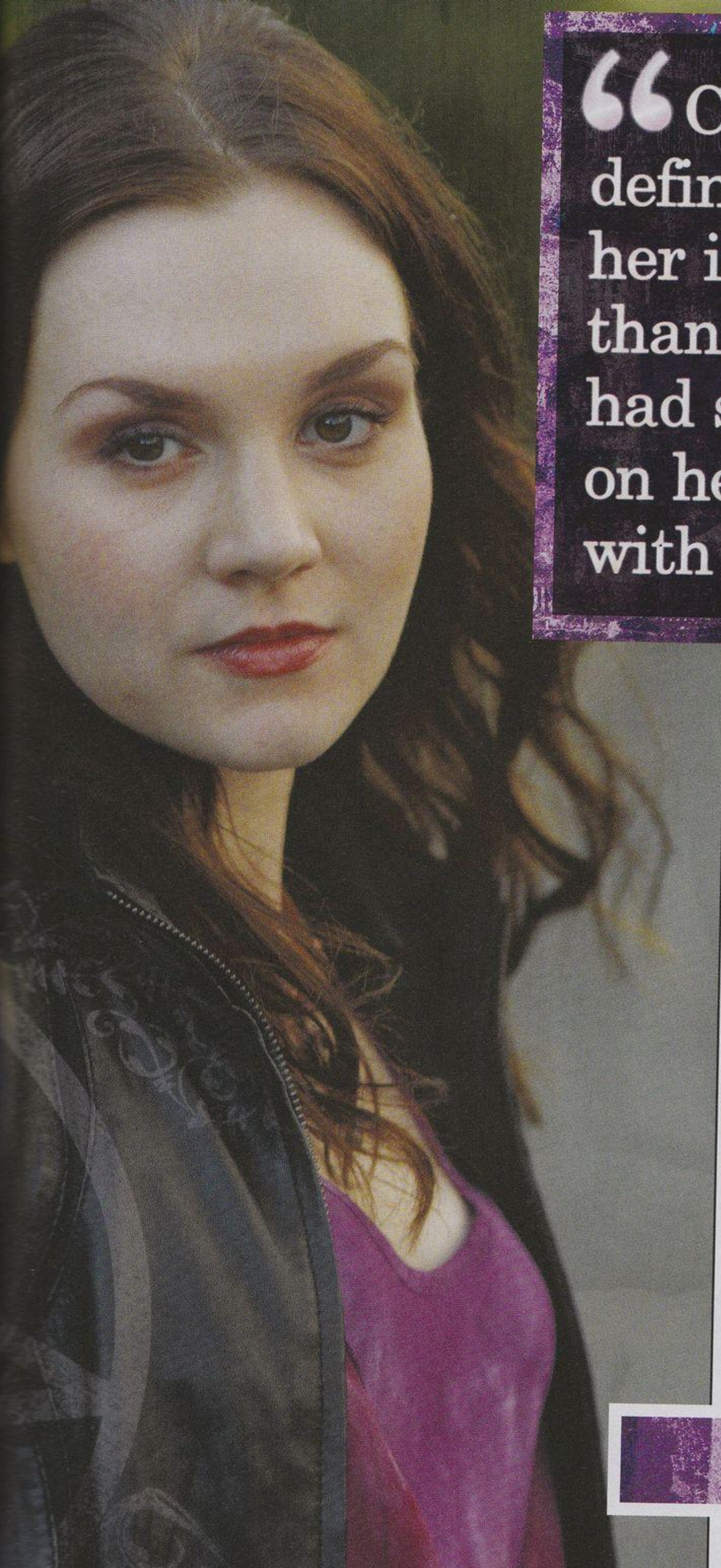
It's always enjoyable to be given more, but yeah, Meg has a lot of strength and power that we've barely seen so far. I'd love to explore more. She doesn't necessarily have to exert much effort to wield that power either.

Is that a downside too? She had Crowley, but he still managed to defeat her. Is Meg's ego or bravado her downfall?

I'm sure it is and will continue to be.

You're currently back in Vancouver filming a movie. Can you talk about the project?

I'm shooting a film called *The Replicas* with Selma Blair. I don't want to give too much away, but it's a psychological thriller involving two couples. One of the pairs, including me, has a strange obsession with the other couple, and interesting stuff ensues from there.



"Castiel definitely sparks her interest more than most. He had some effect on her, especially with that kiss."

What would you like to see the *Supernatural* writers explore with Meg in the future?

I've really enjoyed whatever they've given me to do. It's a fun mystery, and I enjoy opening that package on Christmas Day and finding out what's next. I don't try to anticipate what they have in store for me.

The Winchesters have vanquished all their demon foes, but Meg is still standing. What makes her such a worthy adversary?

She's obviously quite powerful and has literally gotten inside Sam and Dean's heads, sometimes even in their bodies [like when she possessed Sam in *Born Under a Bad Sign*]. It's probably the luck of the draw that she's managed to make it out alive, but part of it is that Meg seems to know when to exit. As in the last episode, she made a hasty withdrawal and gathered her forces to come back. That's her strength... she doesn't take the brothers on unless she has the upper hand.

MYTHS &

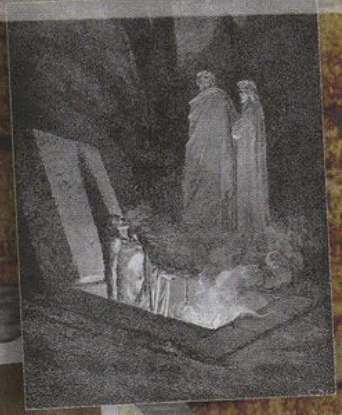
In many world religions, Hell is a place of suffering and punishment in the afterlife. That is certainly the case on *Supernatural*, where Dean, Sam, and John Winchester have all found it to be a place of relentless torture. In Judao-Christian tradition, the ruler of Hell is the fallen angel Lucifer or Satan, with demons as his attendants, though in some depictions, Satan suffers punishment in Hell just as much as the souls who are sent there. In *Supernatural*'s mythology, Lucifer has also created demons as his lieutenants, starting with Lilith, while the likes of Alistair and Crowley have wielded power there, whether as his torturer-in-chief or the King of Hell. Modern literary interpretations often interpret Hell in a more abstract way, often as a state of mind. The writer and philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre for instance famously wrote that "Hell is other people."

LOST SOULS

The reasons why someone's soul would be sent to Hell have often varied according to religions or to the fundamentalism of the believer. To some believers, we are all damned to Hell for our sins, unless we atone for our sins through the salvation of God and through performing good works.

A common theme in literature has been that someone would go to Hell as a result of a deal made with the Devil or a demon. This was seen on *Supernatural*, when both John and Dean made deals with Crossroads Demons, and as a result were taken to Hell, although Dean thankfully escaped with the help of Castiel. Ruby, meanwhile, was apparently sent to Hell for dabbling in witchcraft, and was made a demon while she was there.

There have been certain time periods and religious sects, however, where it was believed that someone would go to Hell for even something as innocent as dancing.



Dante's *Inferno*

One of the most famous depictions of Hell came with the 14th century Italian poet Dante's epic *Inferno*, in which Dante was guided by the Roman poet Virgil through Hell.

In the poem, Hell was depicted according to the medieval concept of the time, where it was made up of nine circles of suffering – Limbo, Lust, Gluttony, Greed, Anger, Heresy, Violence, Fraud, and Treachery – all located below the Earth. The punishment for each particular sin is shown as a kind of poetic justice. The outer circles of Hell are contained within the city of Dis, whose walls are guarded by fallen angels. False prophets and fortune tellers, for example, have their heads set backward on their shoulders so that they cannot see in front of them. The further into Hell they go, the worse are the crimes of the souls that Dante and Virgil encounter.

This issue: HELL

LEGENDS

Words: Chad Ross

HOT OR COLD

Although most accounts of Hell depict it as being aflame, and its lost souls being tortured with fire, this is not the universal view of Hell.

In Dante's *Inferno*, the Ninth and ultimate circle of Hell is reserved for traitors and in the very center of Hell, for committing the ultimate sin of treachery against God, is Satan or Lucifer. He is seen as being encased in an icy lake, with an icy wind constantly blowing on him, thereby preventing him from flying away.

This is mirrored on *Supernatural*, when Lucifer told Sam and Dean, "Sorry if it's a bit chilly. Most people think I burn hot. It's actually quite the opposite." To judge by glimpses we've had of Sam's suffering in Hell, however, it would seem things can be considerably hotter for the souls who are consigned to the pit.

HEL OR HADES

Other cultures have had their own versions of Hel. In Norse mythology, for example, Hel or Helheim was the dominion of the goddess Hel, who ruled the Underworld. Although in the book *Gylfaginning*, Hel was described as the place where evil men go upon their death, it was not often seen as a place of punishment, but as a more neutral place. However, those warriors who died honorably in battle were believed to reside in the halls of Valhalla, guided there by the Valkyries – female warriors on winged horses who ushered the dead into the afterlife. Although Hel is thought to be where the Judao-Christian Hell received the derivation of its name, it was seen as being a misty place rather than the fiery pit Hell is commonly depicted as in Christian mythology.

Greek mythology meanwhile included the belief in Hades, which was the name of both the Underworld itself, and the god who ruled over it (who was known as Pluto to the Romans). The underworld of Hades was made up of different aspects, including the pit of suffering Tartarus, and the rivers Acheron, Cocytus, Phlegethon, Lethe, and Styx. As in Norse mythology, there was a separate place where the virtuous and noble would go upon their death – in this case the Elysian Fields. The river Phlegethon and Tartarus, which it flowed into, in particular share some similarities with depictions of Hell, as fiery places where souls are tormented.

It would seem these ancient cultures have had their own influences on the enduring concept of Hell, whether by name or purpose.

CRO
GU

WLEY'S DE TO LIFE

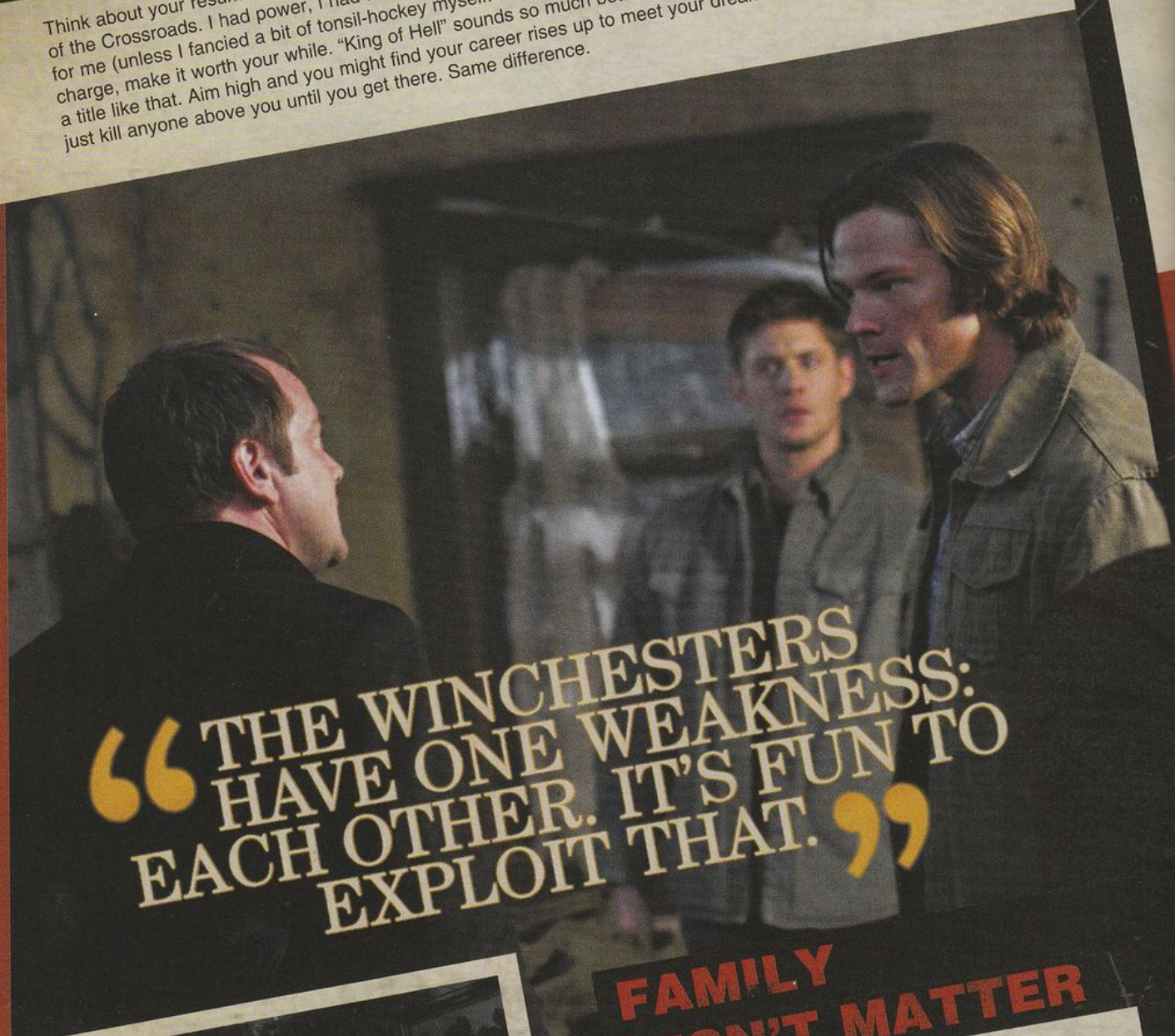
WORDS: CROWLEY
(as related to Jayne Nelson)

You don't get to be King of Hell without knowing how to get ahead in life (or after that, more to the point). So, who better to share his own particular brand of self-help with us than that silver-tongued demon, Crowley? *The Official Supernatural Magazine* met up with him at our nearest crossroads to find out how he does it.*

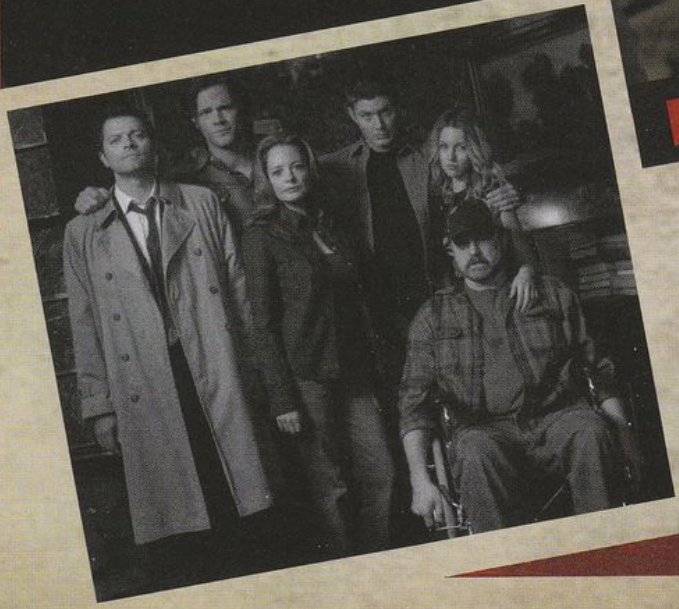
* Please note: This guide details the personal opinions of Crowley, a demon, and *The Official Supernatural Magazine* does not endorse any of this behavior!

AIM HIGH

Think about your resume. Mine used to say "King of the Crossroads". That was good – I liked being King of the Crossroads. I had power, I had fame, I had an army of underlings who used to do all the deal-kissing for me (unless I fancied a bit of tonsil-hockey myself. It's good to be the King). But if you're going to be in charge, make it worth your while. "King of Hell" sounds so much better, doesn't it? You can't argue with a title like that. Aim high and you might find your career rises up to meet your dreams – and if it doesn't, just kill anyone above you until you get there. Same difference.



"THE WINCHESTERS HAVE ONE WEAKNESS: EACH OTHER. IT'S FUN TO EXPLOIT THAT."



FAMILY DOESN'T MATTER

Ah, family. What a royal pain in the arse they can be! The Winchesters have one weakness: each other. It's fun to exploit that. The angels are all about family too, but the fallout from that brotherly bickering up in Heaven nearly set off the Apocalypse.

So I say: sod all that! I say that family should be nothing to you. Back when I was still a miserable human, my misbegotten son and I hated each other like Tom hated Jerry, only there weren't enough anvils falling on his head for my liking. Revel in being alone and you'll go a long, long way... and nobody will be able to use your family against you, either. Look out for number one, and number one is where you'll be!

MUST LIKE DOGS

When you're a demon there's one thing you can rely on: that you can't rely on anybody. Other demons will backstab and double-deal; humans are a waste of space; angels... well, don't get me started on bloody angels. But there's one creature who'll remain loyal to you no matter what, and that's your dog. I'm not talking about those pansy little lapdogs, either – I'm talking about the kind of dog who could drool on a chihuahua and drown it in two seconds flat. Hellhounds, people, hellhounds! With a few of these blighters by your side you can take on anybody. Just make sure yours is bigger... although that applies to *so much* in life, doesn't it?

LOOK GOOD

Never underestimate the importance of a good suit. If you want to command respect, authority and gravitas, nothing can help you more than a great piece of tailoring (well, there's also torture, but that's a given). Sophistication – that's what's missing from the world these days. Pride in your appearance. Look at those flipping Winchesters: denim, plaid shirts, layers, layers, layers. No wonder nobody takes them seriously; they look like a couple of farm hands!

You need to look as though you spend your days sitting behind a desk doing deals so important that the rest of the measly maggots on the Earth could barely understand them; you need to look as though you could walk through the flames of Hell and come out unsinged. Which, in my case, is true. So make sure you have a good tailor, and make doubly sure that nobody eats him. Happened to me once. I was devastated.

IMBIBE WITH PRIDE

Coffee? Get lost. Beer? Bugger off. You shouldn't let anything slip past your lips except Scotch, and make it the good stuff while you're at it. Not that I'm encouraging alcoholism here – oh no. I know that not everybody has the constitution of a 450-year-old demon like me. But I despair when I see so much bilgewater passing for booze these days. Refine your tastes! You need to look good on the outside and feel good on the inside. Whisky burns all the way down. I'm the King of Hell. Burning's kind of my thing. It should be yours, too.

PAY ATTENTION TO THE SMALL PRINT

After centuries of making deals, there's one thing I've learnt: you can trick anyone out of anything – especially their soul – if you put some sneaky little clauses in their contracts. Most of the poor schlubs who sell me their immortal souls don't even know how to read the terms and conditions, even when they should know better (Bobby Singer, I'm looking at you). You might think that writing contracts is dull, but you'd be amazed at what you can sneak into one... and the wails of despair when your clients realize what you've done is always a riot. If I had a dollar for every time I heard someone bleat, "But it's not fair!" I'd be... well, I'd probably be just as rich as I am now, but you get my drift. It's good to be bad!

GOAD, DEMEAN AND BELITTLE

Never, ever pass up an opportunity to make someone feel small. Insult them with a smile, so they're still processing what you've just said while you move on to other things. Call them names, but do it cleverly. Find out their secrets and embarrass them. It's all schoolyard stuff, of course, but you'd be amazed how much a few well-chosen words can smart; how a few barbed comments can fester under the skin. I'm sure Sam Winchester is still muttering about me calling him "moose", for example. And remember how I took a photo of me and Bobby Singer lip-locking our deal, just so I could show it to his pals? Ah, good times...

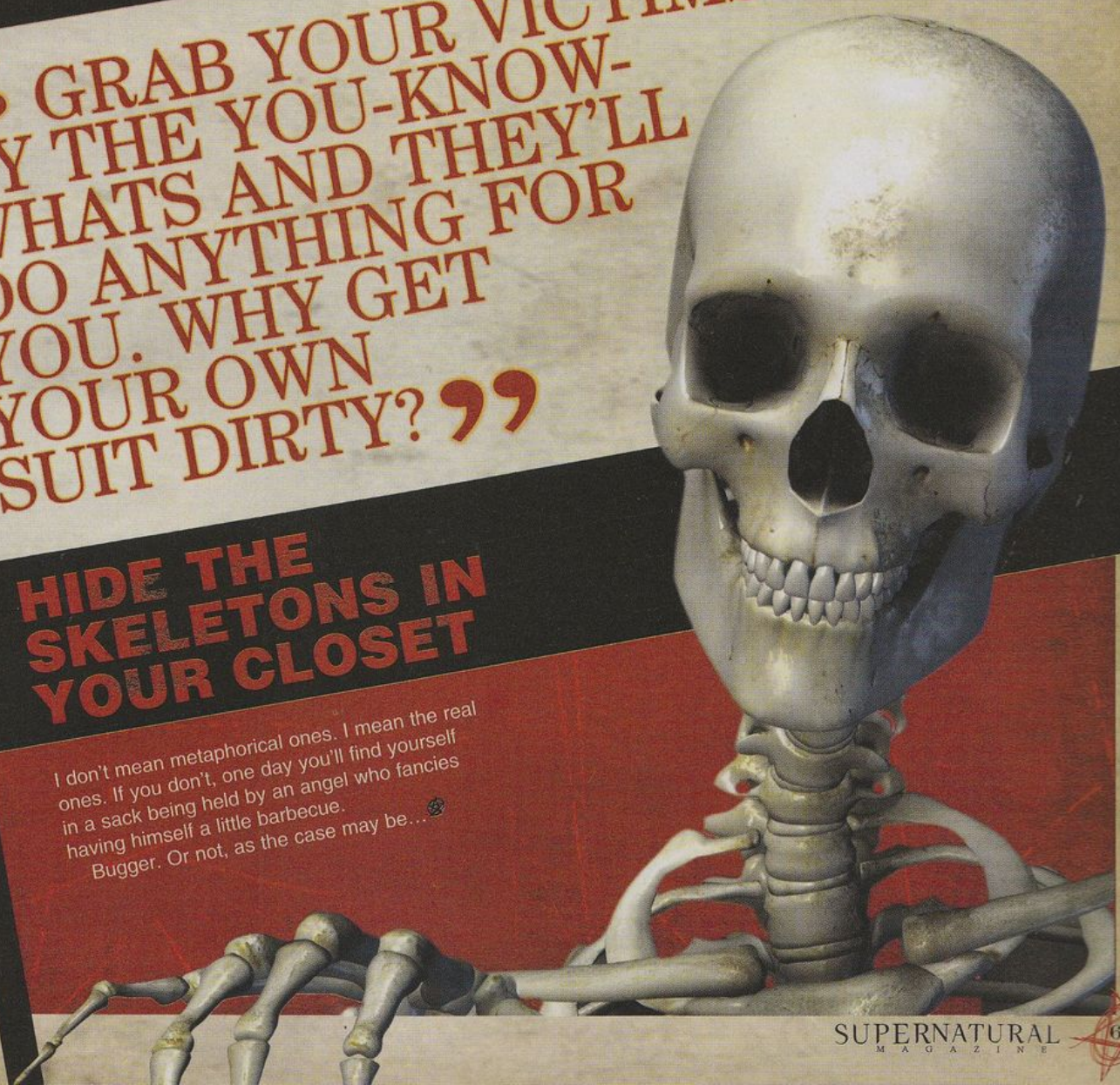
PLAY CHESS

I don't mean the actual game, the one with all those horseys and knights and all that bollocks. No, I mean play chess with *people*. Use them as your pawns and move them around your own, personal chessboard. Use blackmail and torture if necessary, or just trick them any way you can, but get others to do your dirty work for you. An example: I wanted a fine collection of alphas to interrogate so I could find Purgatory, and I got that old coot Samuel Winchester to find them for me by promising him his beloved daughter. I even got Dean and his moose to go on hunts for me by holding Sam's soul as collateral. Get my drift? Grab your victims by the you-know-whats and they'll do anything for you. Why get your own suit dirty?

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

The 'box', in this particular case, just so happens to be Hell; I may be its King, but it's too small for me. Other demons (or angels, in the case of Lucifer) might be content with a Hell that's too small to swing some entrails in, but I'm not. I want to be able to swing *everything*. I think big, see, and every good businessman knows that real estate is important. Hence my hunt for Purgatory. So, let this be a lesson to you. Expand those horizons, people! Don't let your limited means stop you from acquiring more! (Also, if you actually know where Purgatory is, drop me a line... Cheers.)

> "GRAB YOUR VICTIMS BY THE YOU-KNOW-WHATS AND THEY'LL DO ANYTHING FOR YOU. WHY GET YOUR OWN SUIT DIRTY?"



HIDE THE SKELETONS IN YOUR CLOSET

I don't mean metaphorical ones. I mean the real ones. If you don't, one day you'll find yourself in a sack being held by an angel who fancies having himself a little barbecue.

Bugger. Or not, as the case may be...